MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL
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NIGHTRAVEN™
HOUSE OF CARDS

NIGHT RAVEN
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The authors would like to thank Robert Sutherland, Jenny O'Connor, Dan Abnett, Steve White, Paul Neary and Jacqui Papp for their faith and encouragement in the preparation of this book.
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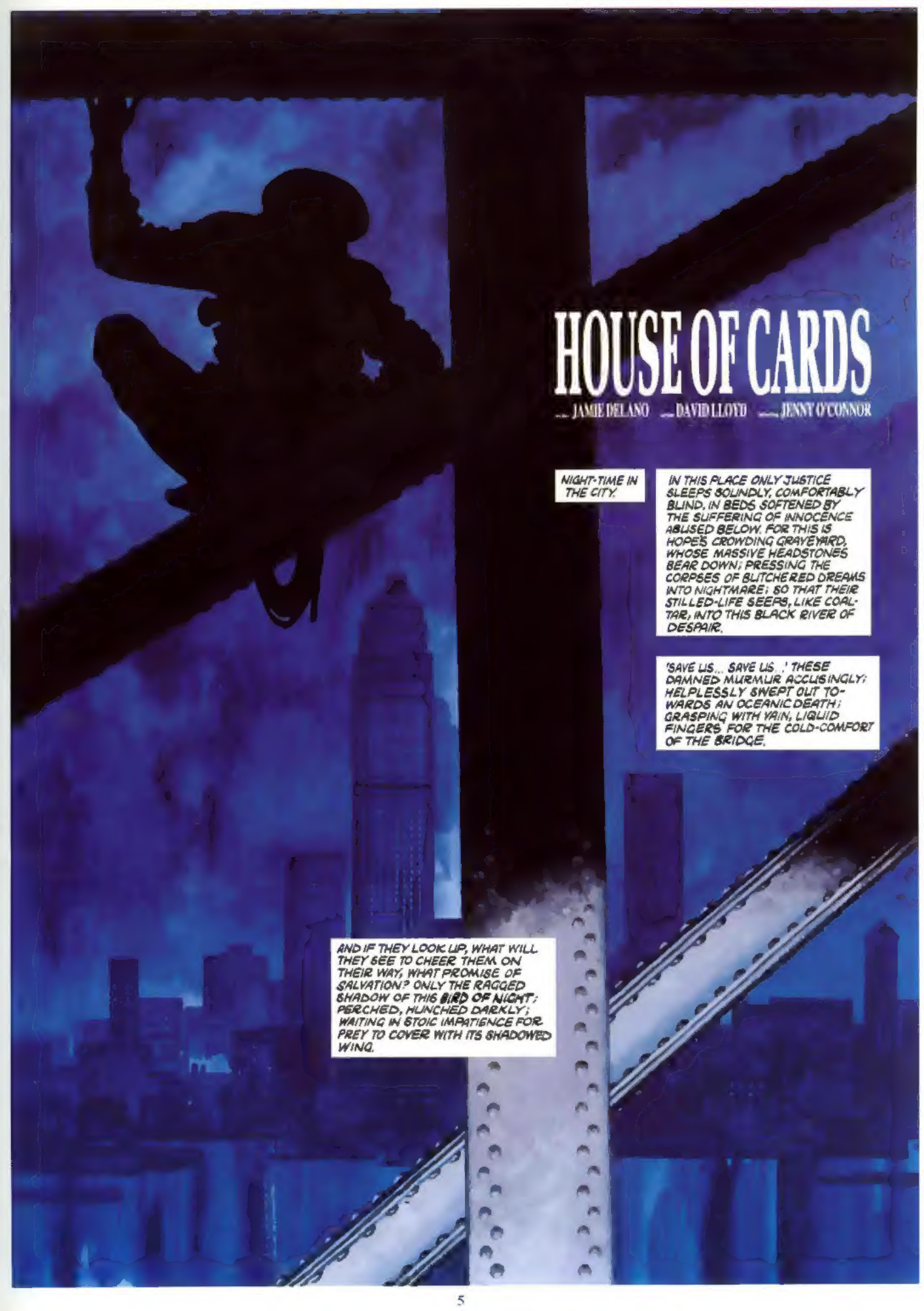
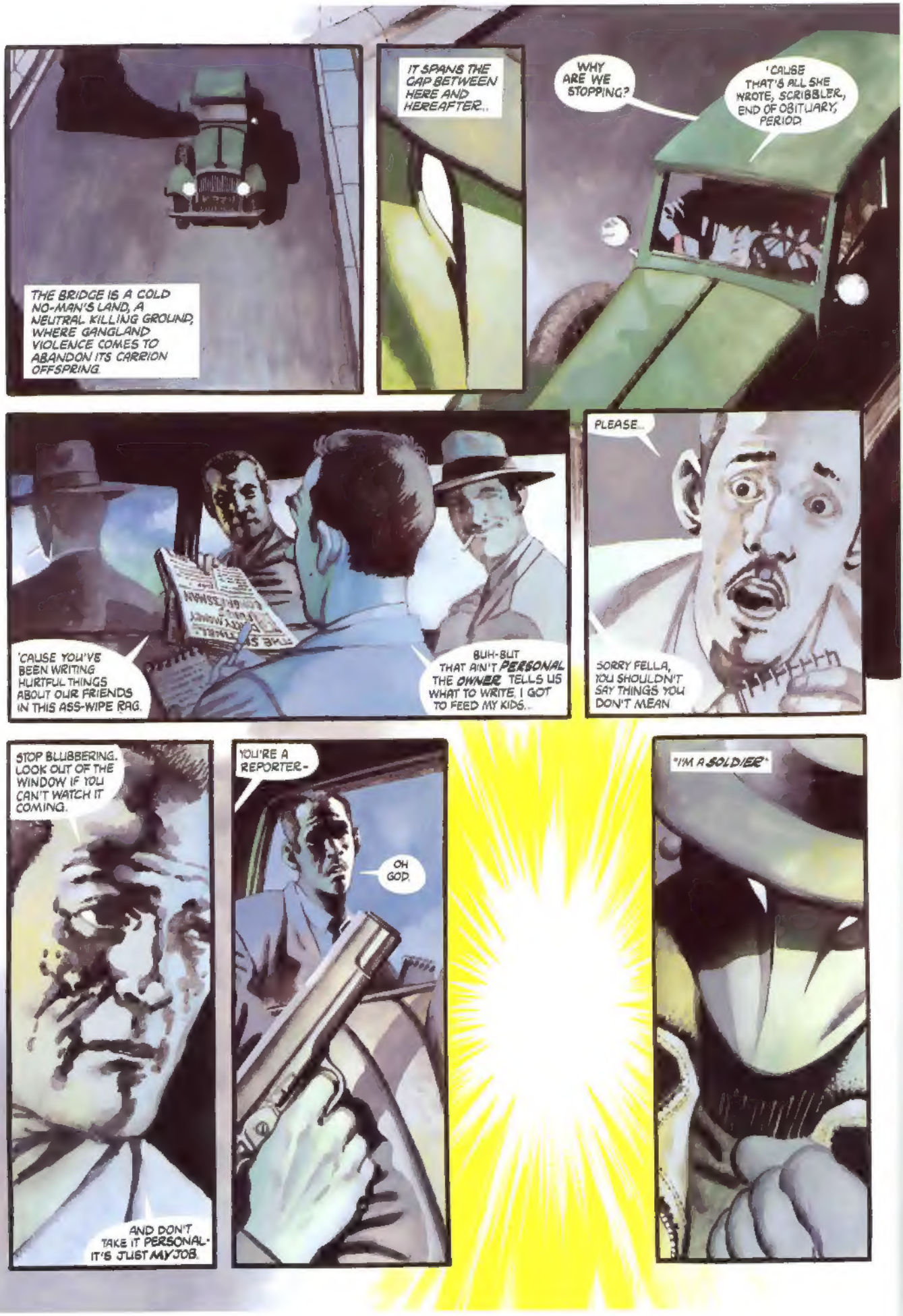
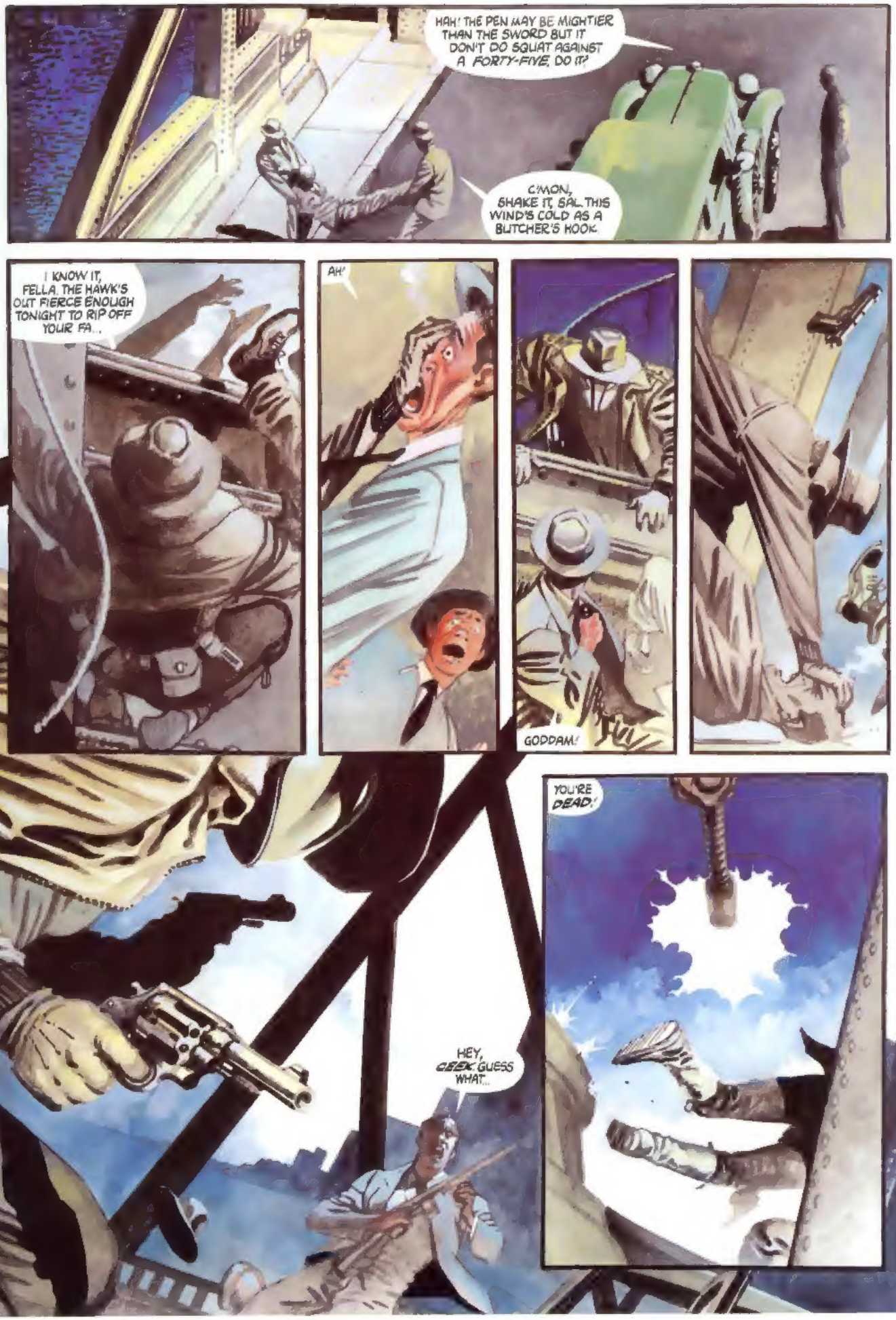
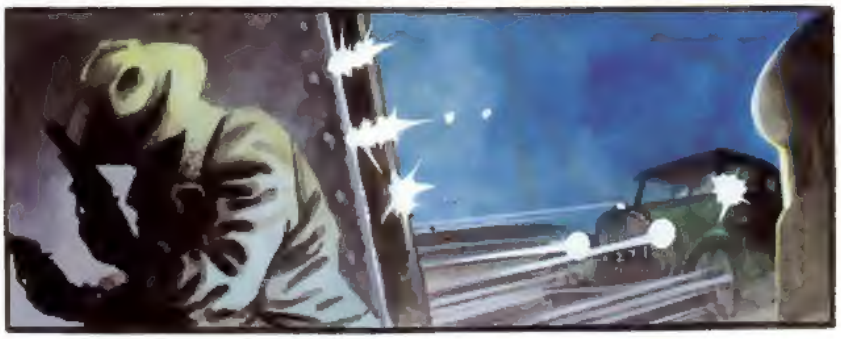

HOUSE OF CARDS
—JAMIE DELANO —DAVID LLOYD —JENNY O'CONNOR
NIGHT-TIME IN THE CITY.
IN THIS PLACE ONLY JUSTICE SLEEPS SOUNDLY, COMFORTABLY BLIND, IN BEDS SOFTENED BY THE SUFFERING OF INNOCENCE ABUSED BELOW. FOR THIS IS HOPE'S CROWDING GRAVEYARD, WHOSE MASSIVE HEADSTONES BEAR DOWN; PRESSING THE CORPSES OF BLITCHERED DREAMS INTO NIGHTMARE; SO THAT THEIR STILLED-LIFE SEEPS, LIKE COAL-TAR, INTO THIS BLACK RIVER OF DESPAIR.
'SAVE US... SAVE US...' THESE DAMNED MURMUR ACCUSINGLY; HELPLESSLY SWEPT OUT TOWARDS AN OCEANIC DEATH; GRASPING WITH VAIN, LIQUID FINGERS FOR THE COLD-COMFORT OF THE BRIDGE.
AND IF THEY LOOK UP, WHAT WILL THEY SEE TO CHEER THEM ON THEIR WAY; WHAT PROMISE OF SALVATION? ONLY THE RAGGED SHADOW OF THIS BIRD OF NIGHT; PERCHED, HUNCHED DARKLY; WAITING IN STOIC IMPATIENCE FOR PREY TO COVER WITH ITS SHADOWED WING.

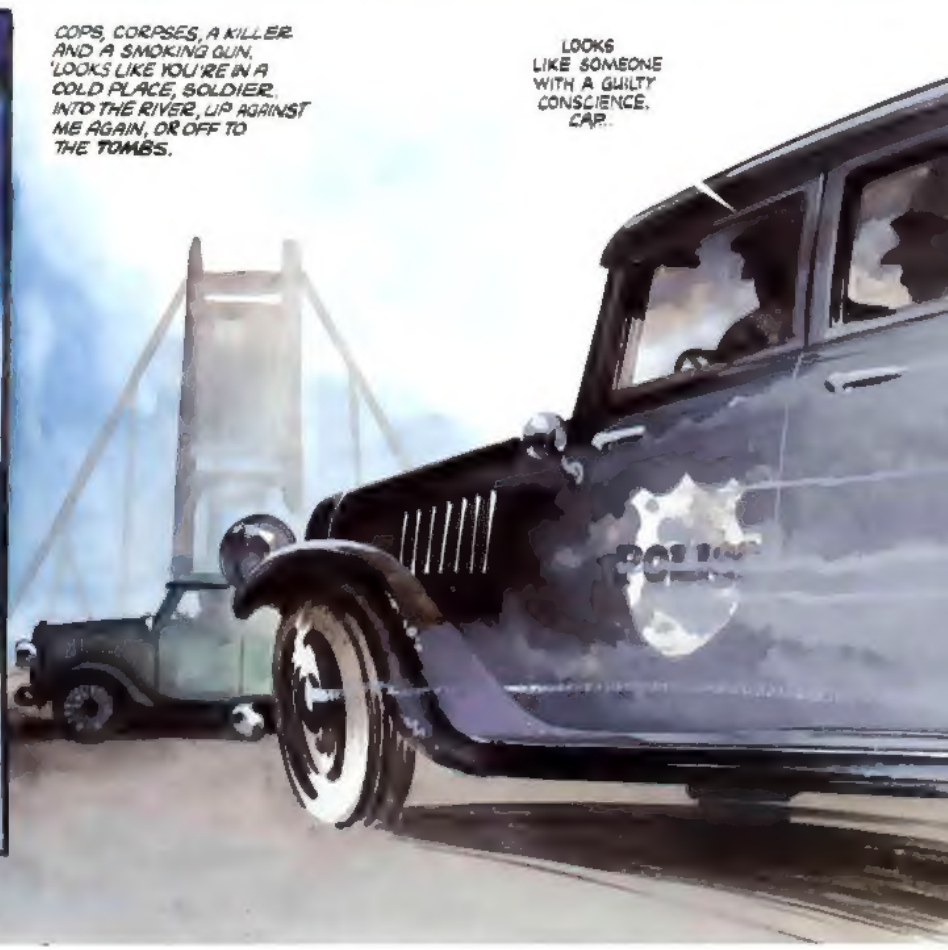

THE BRIDGE IS A COLD NO-MAN'S LAND, A NEUTRAL KILLING GROUND, WHERE GANGLAND VIOLENCE COMES TO ABANDON ITS CARRION OFFSPRING.
IT SPANS THE GAP BETWEEN HERE AND HEREAFTER...
WHY ARE WE STOPPING?
'CAUSE THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE, SCRIBBLER, END OF OBITUARY, PERIOD.
'CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN WRITING HURTFUL THINGS ABOUT OUR FRIENDS IN THIS ASS-WIPE RAG.
BUH-BUT THAT AIN'T PERSONAL THE OWNER TELLS US WHAT TO WRITE. I GOT TO FEED MY KIDS...
PLEASE...
SORRY FELLA, YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THINGS YOU DON'T MEAN
STOP BLUBBERING. LOOK OUT OF THE WINDOW IF YOU CAN'T WATCH IT COMING.
AND DON'T TAKE IT PERSONAL. IT'S JUST MY JOB.
YOU'RE A REPORTER-
OH GOD.
"I'M A SOLDIER."


HAH! THE PEN MAY BE MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD BUT IT DON'T DO SQUAT AGAINST A FORTY-FIVE, DO IT?
C'MON, SHAKE IT, SAL. THIS WIND'S COLD AS A BUTCHER'S HOOK.
I KNOW IT, FELLA. THE HAWK'S OUT FIERCE ENOUGH TONIGHT TO RIP OFF YOUR FA...
AH!
GODDAM!
YOU'RE DEAD!
HEY, CEEK. GUESS WHAT...



MACHINE-GUN FIRE, INFANTRYMAN'S NIGHTMARE. GOOD SHOOTING. SHORT, TIGHT BURSTS. CONTROLLED WITHDRAWAL. ENEMY LEFT GATHERING WITS HAMMERED TO RINGING CONFUSION. GOOD SOLDIER.

ANOTHER CAR COMING. HE CAN'T SHOOT UP THE WHOLE WORLD.


COPS, CORPSES, A KILLER AND A SMOKING GUN. 'LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN A COLD PLACE, SOLDIER. INTO THE RIVER, UP AGAINST ME AGAIN, OR OFF TO THE TOMBS.
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WITH A GUILTY CONSCIENCE, CAP.

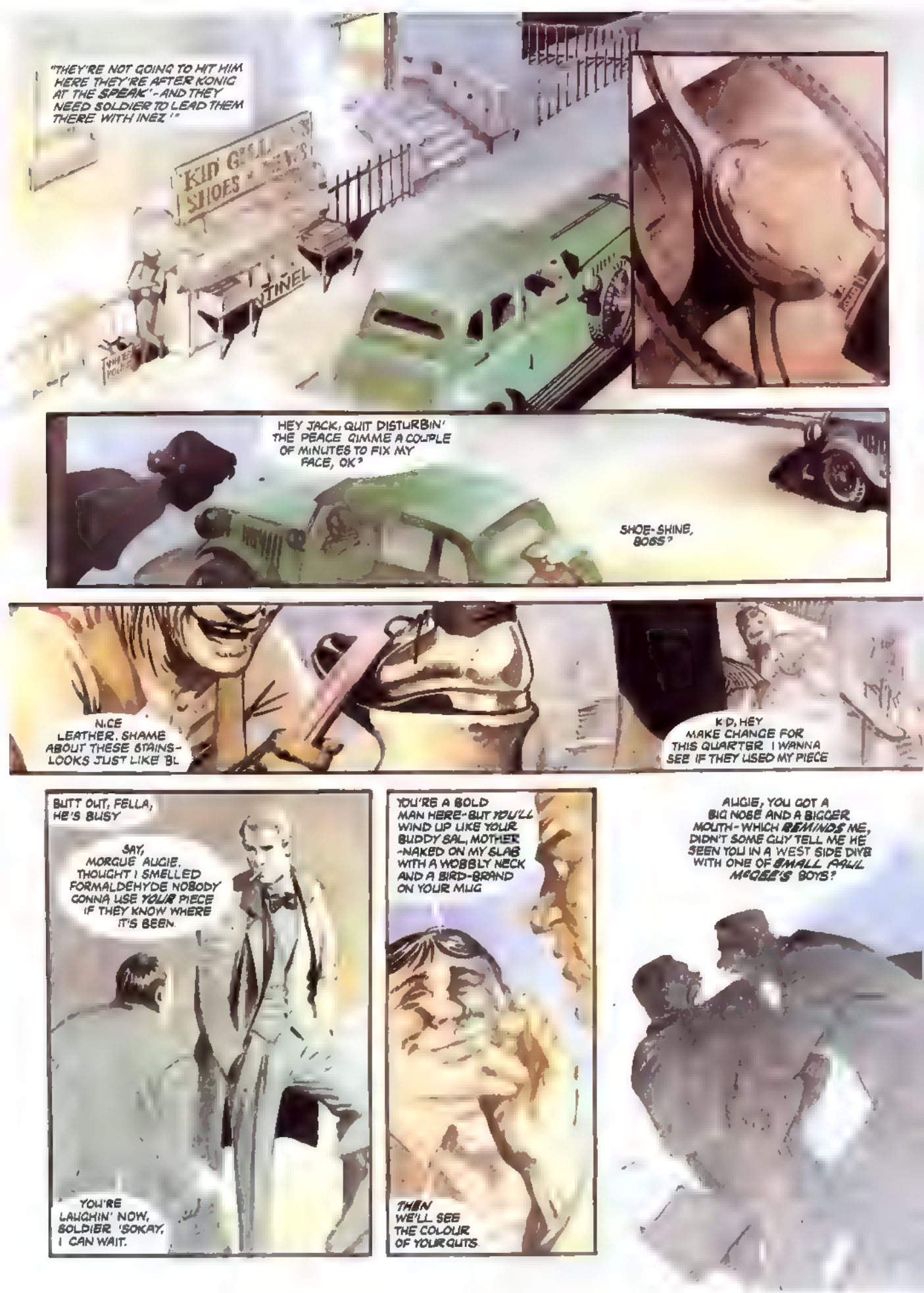
CRAWL OUT HERE, PUNK.
HEY, SPEAK NICE TO ME, SHIT-LEGS - OR I'LL BE COMPLAINING TO MY CONGRESSMAN.
YOU CHEAP HOOD, I'LL...
EASE UP, LEARY. WE GOT NOTHIN' ON SOLDIER.
BUT JESUS, CAPTAIN. THERE'S STIFFS FROM HERE TO GLORY AND ENOUGH ARTILLERY IN THIS ROADSTER TO START A WAR.
"WISE UP, SON. IT AIN'T OUR WAR - OK?"
SEE Y'AROUND THEN, CAP. AND HEY, KID - YOU SHOULDN'T JOIN IF YOU CAN'T TAKE A JOKE. HA HA HA.
JANITOR
ONE MAN'S BELLY LAUGH IS THE OTHER'S TRAGEDY. MOST PEOPLE DON'T CHOOSE TO JOIN, THEY'RE CONSCRIPTED; THEY CAN'T ALWAYS SEE THE FUNNY SIDE. SOME PEOPLE GET THE SHARP LINES AND FANCY FOOTWORK. SOME GET THE BANANA-SKINS AND PRATT-FALLS. MOST ARE JUST TRYING TO GET BY.
HI AUGIE, HOW'S LIFE IN THE MORGUE?
JANITOR BASEMENT BOILER ROOM
FIR
INEZ... YOU WORKIN' NIGHTS NOW?

JUST WAITING TABLE - WORKIN' MY TAIL OFF TO PAY THE RENT.
FRAIL WITH YOUR CLASS COULD MAKE EASIER DOUGH.
DROP DEAD. ANYHOW, I GOT A SINGIN' JOB TONIGHT. JACK FIXED IT. PRIVATE PARTY AT A SPEAK' HE'S PICKIN' ME UP LATER.
SOME BIG-SHOTS IS GOING TO BE THERE.
YEAH... LIKE WHO?
LIKE TALL SAUL KONIG JACK WORKS FOR HIM.
JACK...? YEAH, JACK - I SEEN HIM. I SEEN A LOTTA THEM. GUNSELS. SEEN PARTS OF 'EM THEIR MOTHERS NEVER SEEN WHEN I LAID 'EM ON THE SLAB.
HOPE YOU REMEMBERED TO WASH YOUR HANDS, ALGIE.
HEY, WISEASS - YOUR SEAMS'RE CROOKED.
SOME PEOPLE ARE INNOCENT - MOST ARE GUILTY.
YEAH... THIS IS ALGIE. LISTEN, TELL THE BOSS - TALL SAUL'S THROWIN' A PRIVATE PARTY TONIGHT. DON'T KNOW WHERE IT'S GOING TO BE AT, BUT I CAN GET INVITATIONS
GOTTA GO NOW. CALL ME LATER, OK.
HEY, CHIEF - YOU LISTENIN' TO ME?
NOSIR.
Y'BETTER NOT. I GOT FRIENDS UNDERSTAND ME
YESSIR
SOME PEOPLE CAN'T TELL WHEN THE JOKES ON THEM.

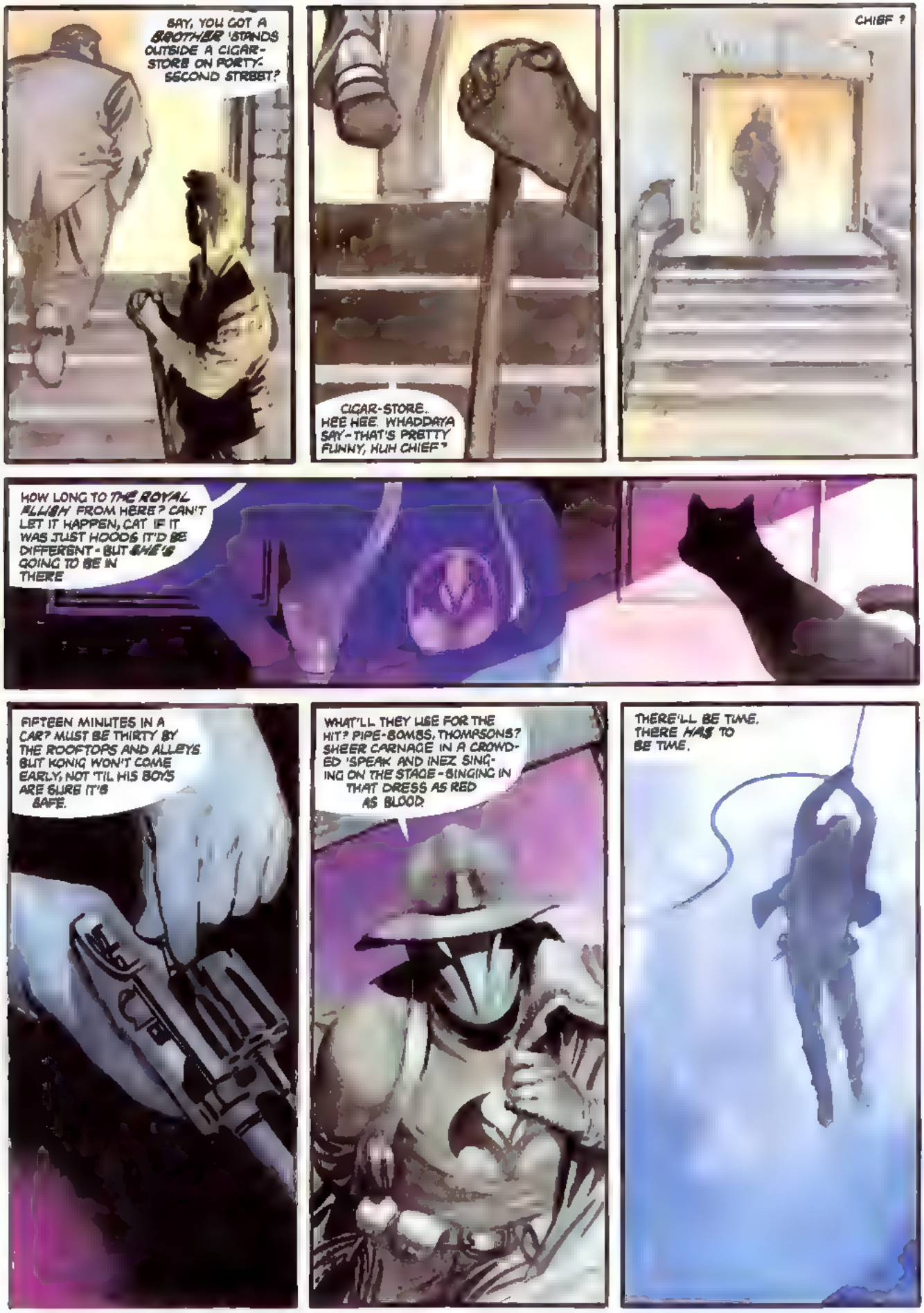
PEEK-A-BOO.
HEY, JUMP TO IT, YA BUMS. THIS IS A NICE NEIGHBOURHOOD-NO SLEEPING ON THE STREETS. HEE-HEE...
DONCHA KNOW WE GOT A FINE LITTLE FLOP-HOUSE RIGHT HERE? LOW RATES, CLEAN SHEETS AND QUIET AS THE GRAVE. HE HEEHEE...
SO WHY AIN'T YA LAUGHIN', BIRD-BRAINS? AIN'T NOTHING S'FUNNY AS DEATH.
BIRD-BRAINS... THAT'S PRETTY GOOD. ALL THEM HOODLUMS SWANKIN' AROUND, LIKE PUFFED-UP PIGEONS. WELL THE CAT'S AMONGST THEM NOW-AND DON'T THEY LOOK SURPRISED.
'ILLO, SENTINEL...?
GIMME THE CRIME DESK. LEMME SPEAK WITH BILLY THE NOSE-IF HE AIN'T TOO SAUCED YET.
NO SIGNIFICANT CONTUSION. NO EXIT OR ENTRY WOUND...
IT'S ME, MORGUE AUGIE... HEY, IT'S A LIVIN', Y'KNOW?
LISSEN, SMART-GUY, THEY HAULED IN TWO MORE LAST NIGHT... YEAH, NECKS BROKE, SAME BIRD-MARK BURNED ON THEIR KISSERS. KONIG'S BOYS THIS TIME.
"SAY, BILL - WHY DONCHA COME BY LATER WITH A BOTTLE. WE COULD CHEW THE FAT AND LOOK AT THE DEAD BROADS... SO, IT'S A SICK WORLD, PAL. -BRING FLOWERS IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER."

EVEN IN THE DEAD DARKNESS OF THIS CEMETERY OF DREAMS, SLY NATURE PRYS A CHINK OF LIGHT BETWEEN THE SLABS OF SHADOW.
WITHIN THE FRAME OF MASSIVE UGLINESS A CAUTIOUS BEAUTY BLOOMS TO CATCH AN EYE AND TUG A SECRET HEART.
JEEZ GIRL, YOU BETTER LAY DOWN YOUR BONES, YOU GOT TO SHINE TONIGHT. THEM SWELLS AIN'T GOIN' TO WATCH NO SINGIN' CORPSE.
THOUGH JACK SURE SEEMS TO GO FOR THE LILLIAN GISH BIT
♫ 'GOIN' DOWN TO SAINT JAMES INFIRMARY 'SEE MY BABY THERE... ♫
HOW CAN SUCH FRAGILITY REMAIN UNTAINTED BY CORRUPTION OR UNBRUISED BY CALLOUS LIFE?
♫ SHE'S STRETCHED OUT ON A LONG, WHITE TABLE.. SO SWEET, SO COLD, SO FAIR. ♫
SLEEP SOUND, INEZ. SLEEP SAFE AND DREAM UNTROUBLED DREAMS. NO THREAT WILL DISTURB YOU WHILE YOU LIE SAFE AND WARM BENEATH THIS WATCHER'S WING.

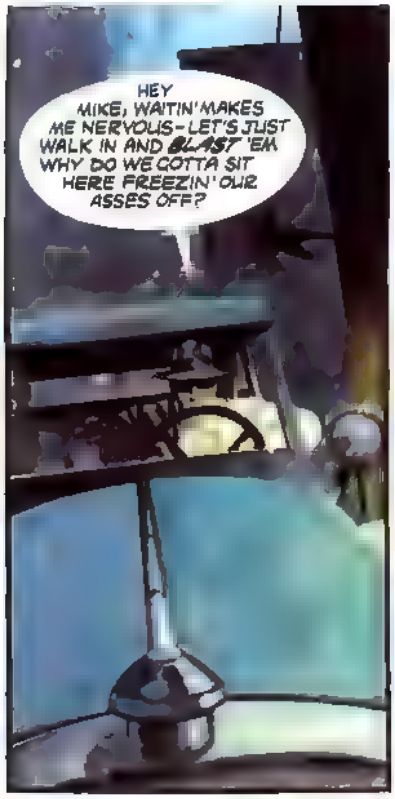
UNTIL AGAIN THE DAY HAS SCURRIED ANXIOUSLY AWAY AND DARKNESS OOZES; LURING THE RODENTS AND REPTILES FROM BENEATH THEIR STONES, AS ALL NOCTURNAL PREDATORS QUICKEN TO THEIR PREY.
MIIAOWW
I KNOW, I'M RESTLESS TOO, CAT BUT QUIET, I'M THINKING. SHOULD WE HIT THE WEST SIDE OR THE EAST TONIGHT?
OR JUST SIT QUIET IN NO-MAN'S LAND AND WAIT FOR THEM TO MEET.
CONGRESSMAN CHASE DECLARES WAR ON GANGS
LIKE SNIPERS WAIT FOR SOLDIERS ON PATROL
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEN, CAT SOLDIER'S TALL SAUL KONIG'S MAN. SO IS INEZ' BEAU, OR SO SHE SAID.
"YEAH, LOOK AT THAT WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT? ONE EAST SIDE JACK-RABBIT, MIND SET ON LOVE AND TWO WEST SIDE FOXES IN A BLUE SEDAN-THE TORPEDOES ALICIE CALLED."


"THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HIT HIM HERE THEY'RE AFTER KONIG AT THE SPEAK' - AND THEY NEED SOLDIER TO LEAD THEM THERE WITH INEZ'"
KID G'LL SHOES
SENTINEL
HEY JACK, QUIT DISTURBIN' THE PEACE GIMME A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO FIX MY FACE, OK?
SHOE-SHINE, BOSS?
NICE LEATHER. SHAME ABOUT THESE STAINS- LOOKS JUST LIKE 'BL
KID, HEY MAKE CHANGE FOR THIS QUARTER I WANNA SEE IF THEY USED MY PIECE
BUTT OUT, FELLA, HE'S BUSY
SAY, MORGUE AUGIE, THOUGHT I SMELLED FORMALDEHYDE NOBODY GONNA USE YOUR PIECE IF THEY KNOW WHERE IT'S BEEN.
YOU'RE LAUGHIN' NOW, SOLDIER 'SOKAY, I CAN WAIT.
YOU'RE A BOLD MAN HERE- BUT YOU'LL WIND UP LIKE YOUR BUDDY SAL, MOTHER -NAKED ON MY SLAB WITH A WOBBLY NECK AND A BIRD-BRAND ON YOUR MUG
THEN WE'LL SEE THE COLOUR OF YOUR GUTS
AUGIE, YOU GOT A BIG NOSE AND A BIGGER MOUTH- WHICH REMINDS ME, DIDN'T SOME GUY TELL ME HE SEEN YOU IN A WEST SIDE DIVE WITH ONE OF SMALL PAUL McGEE'S BOYS?

JACK ! HOW DO I LOOK?
JEEZ, LIKE REAL QUALITY, DOLL LIKE A REGULAR RED QUEEN.
YOU'RE LUCKY, ALGIE - I'M IN A ROMANCIN' MOOD TONIGHT AN' I DON'T WANT TO TURN UP AT THE ROYAL FLUSH WITH BLOOD ON MY SCHMUTTER.
BUT IF I HEAR ABOUT YOU TALKING OUT OF TURN AGAIN, YOU GONNA WAKE UP GARGLING LYE.
TELL ME, DID YA EVER HEAR A DEAD MAN TALKING?
NOSIR
WELL I'LL LET YOU INTO A SECRET, FELLA. YA JUST DID.


SAY, YOU GOT A BROTHER STANDS OUTSIDE A CIGAR-STORE ON FORTY-SECOND STREET?
CIGAR-STORE.. HEE HEE. WHADDAYA SAY - THAT'S PRETTY FUNNY, HUH CHIEF?
CHIEF?
HOW LONG TO THE ROYAL FLUSH FROM HERE? CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN, CAT. IF IT WAS JUST HOODS IT'D BE DIFFERENT - BUT SHE'S GOING TO BE IN THERE
FIFTEEN MINUTES IN A CAR? MUST BE THIRTY BY THE ROOFTOPS AND ALLEYS. BUT KONIG WON'T COME EARLY, NOT 'TIL HIS BOYS ARE SURE IT'S SAFE.
WHAT'LL THEY USE FOR THE HIT? PIPE-BOMBS, THOMPSONS? SHEER CARNAGE IN A CROWDED 'SPEAK AND INEZ SINGING ON THE STAGE - SINGING IN THAT DRESS AS RED AS BLOOD.
THERE'LL BE TIME. THERE HAS TO BE TIME.

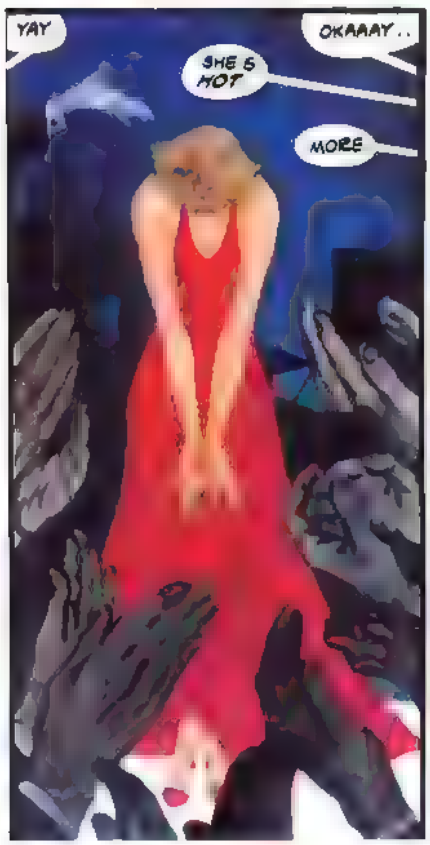
PRECIOUS AN EXOTIC TWIST OF SCARLET UNDER SWEATING HOT-HOUSE GLASS
PERFECT A SUBTLY PERFUMED BEAUTY IN A HUMID JUNGLE GROVE
♫ ...SO SPEND ALL YOUR MONEY IN BLIND PIGS AN'SPEAKS STAY DRUNK FROM THIS MORNING TO THIS TIME NEXT WEEK ♫
PURE ELEGANCE IN THE MIDST OF ROT.
♫ BUT BABY I SWEAR BY THE LORD UP ABOVE ♫
♫ DON'T COME BACK TO THIS CHILE FOR COMFORT AND LOVE ♫
A RARE ORCHID DANGEROUSLY TEMPTING THE BRUTE HANDS OF JEALOUSY –
AND GREED.
KONIG, I FEEL A POWERFUL NEED TO HEAR THAT CHILD SING ME TO SLEEP TONIGHT
WELL...
SORRY MISTER CHASE, NO DICE INEZ DON'T DO NO REQUESTS

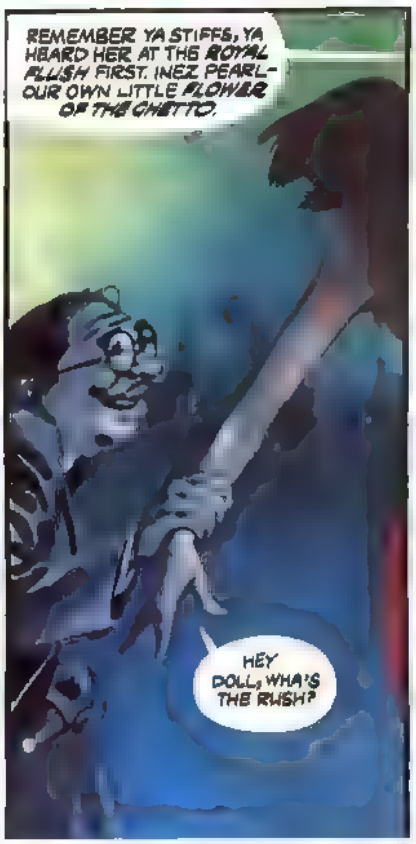

HEY MIKE, WAITIN' MAKES ME NERVOUS - LET'S JUST WALK IN AND BLAST 'EM. WHY DO WE GOTTA SIT HERE FREEZIN' OUR ASSES OFF?

'CAUSE SMALL PAUL SAID TO GREASE KONG - NOT GET OURSELVES GREASED HE'S GOT MORE TROOPS IN THERE THAN THEY GOT AT FORT WORTH. WE'LL LET 'EM GET SAUCED-UP - AND HIT HIM WHEN THEY COME OUT.

I AIM TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET PAID, ANYWAY, SUICIDE'S A MORTAL SIN, LOU.
SO'S MURDER, AIN'T IT?

OR DON'T IT COUNT IF THEY AIN'T CHRISTIANS?


YAY
OKAAAY..
SHE'S HOT
MORE


REMEMBER YA STIFFS, YA HEARD HER AT THE ROYAL FLUSH FIRST. INEZ PEARL - OUR OWN LITTLE FLOWER OF THE GHETTO.
HEY DOLL, WHA'S THE RUSH?

C'MERE AN' SIT ON OL' UNCLE ACE'S LAP FR' AWHILE

BROTHER, I WOULDN'T SIT ON YOUR LAP IF MY LEGS WAS CUT OFF!
HA- 'GIRL'S SLIPPERIER'N SHIT ON A STOOP BUT I AIN'T CALLED HAROLD CHASE F'NOTHING HA HAHAHA..
HEY, CONGRESSMAN- ENOUGH ALREADY YOU'RE STARTING TO LOSE VOTES
DON' TOUCH M
BACK OFF, SOLDIER YOU'RE OUT OF LINE
WHAT ZOO'D YOU FIND HIM IN?
SOLDIER? HELL, SOLDIER'S OK, HARRY HE'S MY TOP TORPEDO - ONLY HE'S KINDA SWEET ON THE SINGER KID, Y'KNOW?
YOU SHOULD TRAIN YOUR APES BETTER, KONIG - SO'S THEY KNOW THAT WHAT I WANT, I GET
OK, OK, DON'T BE SORE, HARRY I TOLD YOU, SOLDIER'S A STAND-UP GUY LEAVE IT TO ME - I'LL FIX IT WITH HIM LATER
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS CHEAP DIVE, KONIG LET'S FINISH THE PARTY AT MY HOTEL- YOU, ME, SOLDIER HERE AND HIS GIRL
YOU HEARD MISTER CHASE, SOLDIER - LET'S GO.
YEAH, YEAH WAIT WHILE I CHECK THE CAR

SOMEBODY GET THE PHONE, FOR CHRISSAKES - I'M TRYING TO SLEEP
POLICE
YEAH, SORRY SARGE, I WAS IN THE CAN
WHO IS THIS?
TELLING YOU THAT YOU KEYSTONE KOPS WANT TO BE OUTSIDE THE ROYAL FLUSH IN TEN MINUTES WHEN TALL SAUL KONIG GETS HIT - ELSE YOU'LL BE READING ABOUT IT IN TOMORROW'S PAPERS
SARGE HEY SARGE, WAKE UP HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE A CAPTAIN, SARGE?
NAME THIS CITY WAR DEATH CARVED THIS MESHED CONFUSION OF TRENCHES TO TORMENT THE PATIENT EARTH AND BAFFLE THE CLEANSING WIND
HERE VIOLENCE IS UNLEASHED - AND FREELY LASHES OUT WITH UNSELECTIVE HATE - SAVAGING THOSE TRAPPED AND LOST WHO WANDER THROUGH THE MAZE
INEZ SHAKE IT, HUH BABE? THE BOSS WANTS US TO GO PARTY AT OLD CHASE 'THE ACE'S' HOTEL
DRESSI . . .
C'MON JACK, YOU SAW THAT FAT LUSH SLOBBERING ALL OVER ME.
YEAH, YEAH, I SEEN. TROUBLE IS, HE'S GOT KONIG BY THE NUTS. WE GOTTA BE NICE TO HIM
HOW NICE?
JUST SMILE A BIT, Y'KNOW. IF HE TOUCHES YOU, I'LL BRUISE HIM. ANYHOW, HE'S SO JUICED HE'LL PROBABLY PASS OUT IN THE CAR.
SURE, OR BRING-UP ALL OVER MY NEW DRESS

GET IN THE CAR, KID. SOMTHIN' AIN'T RIGHT HERE
HEY, SAUL, I THINK MY LEGS'VE DIED—THAT WAS GOOD BOOZE
IT SHOULD BE, I MADE IT MYSELF HAHAHA HAHA
SAY, WHA S THE APE DOING WITH THAT GUN?
MOVE IT, BOSS
GODDAM IT
JACK
GEDDOWN
NONONONO..
MOVE!

GOOD WORK, SOLDIER.
JUH-JESUS, KONIG YOU SAID IT WAS SAFE YOU GUARANTEED IT.
WHAT'S THE BEEF, ACE - YOU'RE ALIVE, AIN'T YA?
HARRY, HARRY- WHAT CAN I SAY.?
SHIT, THIS I DON'T BELIEVE - COPS
COPS COPS? I CAN'T BE CAUGHT HERE. I'M A POLITICIAN, NOT A HOODLUM.
THE CARS'RE TOTALLED. YOU BETTER TAKE A WALK HARRY ME AN' SOLDIER'LL TAKE THE RAP - FOR NOW
YEAH YOU TOO, INEZ GET THE CONGRESSMAN AWAY THROUGH THE ALLEY
BUT
DO IT INEZ - FOR ME
OK, JACK.
DID THEY SEE US? ARE THEY FOLLOWING?
NAH, DON'T CRY - WE MADE IT
"MY GUARDIAN ANGEL MUST BE WORKING LATE TONIGHT."

DON'T LOOK LIKE ANGEL COUNTRY THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD'S A SEWER-WE COULD GET DISEASES
YOU SHOULD WORRY? YOU AIN T GONNA LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO CATCH ONE IF YOU DON'T WATCH YOUR MOUTH, MISTER CHASE.
WHY DONCHA CALL ME HARRY?
HI, HARRY
WHO..? WUH-WHAT D'YOU WANT?
EVERYTHING, HARRY-AND THEN SOME.
SAY, HOLD IT FELLAS, THE SCHMUCK'S WITH ME-AND /'M/ WITH SOLDIER JACK BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T NEED THAT KINDA TROUBLE
C'MON SAY NOTHIN
THEY'RE FOLLOWING.
NO KIDDIN' YOU'VE GOT A SIGN SAYS 'VICTIM' HANGING ROUND YOUR NECK
DON'T LOOK ROUND IT'S LIKE WITH DOGS, YOU'RE DEAD WHEN THEY KNOW YOU'RE SCARED
PLEASE GOD, THEY'VE GOT BASEBALL-BATS.
JEEZ, LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE LISTENING IN HEAVEN. A CAB DOWN HERE. 'GUY MUST BE LOST
HEY JOE, GET OVER HERE!

NICE TIMING, ANGEL. HEAD UPTOWN. HE'LL TELL YOU WHERE - WHEN HE CAN TALK AGAIN.
HEY, MISTER CHASE YOU AIN'T GONNA CROAK ON ME, ARE YOU? C'MON WE'RE TAKING YOU HOME
HOME, YEAH - AND YOU COME WITH ME, BABY. I BET THAT LITTLE FRIGHT'S GOT YOU HOT TOO. N' I TELL YOU OLD 'CHASE THE ACE' CAN SHOW YOU PLENTY MORE ACTION.
HEY, I TOLD YOU -, DON'T DO THOSE KINDA TRICKS
THERE'S CHAMPAGNE AND SILK SHEETS, TO MATCH YOUR SKIN. NAME YOUR PRICE
GET OFF ME, BUM. AIN'T NOTHIN' HERE ON SALE.
OW! YOU LITTLE TRAMP..
YOU THINK YOU'RE CUTE. THINK YOU'RE TOO GOOD
DAMN RIGHT, DO
IT AIN'T SO, CHICKEN YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN PROPERTY.
AHH! THAT HURTS
ENOUGH!

I'LL SAY WHAT'S ENOU
WALK BLOODY, SAVE YOURSELF THE FARE
YOU'RE CRAZY, MISTER. I'M GOING TO HAVE YOUR JOB AND YOUR BADGE... I'LL HAVE EVERY COP IN THE CITY ON YOUR BACK DAY AND NIGHT. YOU'RE FINISHED
LOOK FELLA-I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DID. BUT I WOULD'VE HANDLED IT AND LIKE, YOU OUGHTA KNOW, THAT SLOB'S SOME BIG SHOT POLITICIAN
MAYBE WE BETTER PICK HIM UP SO'S I CAN STRAIGHTEN HIM OUT. HE COULD REALLY MAKE LIFE HELL FOR YOU

THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM LADY, I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE.
I'M NOT TROUBLED BY THE HEAT.
YOU GOT A FUNNY ACCENT, AIN'T YOU? WHERE'RE YOU FROM?
CANADA
CANADA, HUH? WHERE THE GOOD WHISKY COMES FROM - AND THEY GOT THEM COPS DRESSED UP IN RED? HOW COME YOU CAME HERE?
'CAUSE CANADIANS ASK QUESTIONS ALL THE TIME, Y'KNOW?
GUESS THEY GOTTA BE DEAD, SARGE - ELSE THEY'D BE SCREAMIN'. HEY... HOW COME...?
THIS GUY'S GOT HIS HANDS TIED TO HIS THOMPSON - AND IT'S STILL AT FULL COCK
SAY, SOLDIER - THIS DON'T LOOK SO GOOD IF THEY AIN'T SHOOTIN', HOW'S IT GONNA BE SELF DEFENCE?
HEY, 'CAR COMES AT ME WITH A SUIT HANGING OUT THE WINDOW WAVING A PIANO; I DON'T GOTTA LET HIM PLAY A TUNE ON ME THIS IS AMERICA, PAL

SARGE-TELL ME I'M SEEING THIS. THESE STIFFS'VE GOT THEM CRAZY BIRD-MARKS ON THEIR HEADS, JUST LIKE..
GODDAMMIT, THE EVIDENCE'LL BE CREMATED BEFORE THAT HOSE-WAGON GETS HERE
JEEZ, WHERE'S THE FIRE? I DIDN'T EVEN HAVY YOU
GOT HIS BADGE NUMBER THOUGH - JACK'LL FIX IT LATER
ANYHOW, HOW'D HE KNOW WHERE I LIVED? WEIRD GUY.
WHAT I REALLY WANNA KNOW IS, WHAT KIND OF WARPED HOODLUM MIND DOES THAT KINDA STUFF? DEFACING CORPSES AIN'T CIVILISED.
WELL I JUST SHOOT 'EM, SARGE. I AIN'T NO INDIAN.
WISEMOUTH I OUGHTA LET THE BOY'S KICK YOU AROUND A CELL FOR A WHILE- YOU AND KONIG BOTH. BUT I GUESS I'LL JUST LET YOU WALK AWAY.
MAYBE THE BIRD-MAN'S STILL ROUND HERE SOMEPLACE
CHRIST, SARGE. TALK ABOUT SMOKIN' GUNS. WE GOTTA HAUL 'EM IN.
LIFE'S TOO SHORT WE'RE GONNA GET 'EM TO THE STATION HOUSE AND FIND SOME SHIT-EATING LAWYER WAITING...
WITH ABOUT A HUNDRED WITNESSES TO SWEAR OLD SOLDIER'S A REGULAR DAVY CROCKETT.

'AS LONG AS HE DON'T KILL NO COPS, KONIG'S PROTECTION GOES ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP
THANKS FOR THE RIDE, JOE
♫ BYE BYE BLACK-BIRD ♫
YOU'RE FLAT, ALGIE.
SUH-SOLDIER- YOU'RE
I'M BEAT GET OUTTA THE WAY
OH YEAH, HOPE YOU LIKE SMOKED MEAT, ALGIE
FORGET HIM NOW, INEZ DON'T WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS LOVE HE'S SICK HE'S GOT THE FEVER DEATH FLANKS HIM ON BOTH SIDES
HIS EYES ARE BLACK WITH WAR - AND WAR HAS NO FUTURE WAR ONLY CONSUMES TURN AWAY INEZ WHILE YOU CAN
VIOLENCE IS INFECTIOUS DON'T LET IT TOUCH YOU
DON'T LOOK IN ITS UGLY FACE

WHAT D'YOU THINK? I'VE BEEN SHOT AT, CURSED AT, BEAT UP AN' ROBBED - AND I HAD TO WALK HOME IN THE RAIN.
NO, I DIDN'T HAVE A GOOD TIME. I HAD A LOUSY TIME - AND I'M SERIOUSLY PISSED, KONIG.
WHAT CAN I SAY? I'LL MAKE IT RIGHT, HARRY ANYTHING YOU WANT.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU WHAT I WANT AND IF YOU DON'T DELIVER THE BITCH PRETTY DAMN FAST YOU'RE FINISHED IN THIS TOWN - GEDDIT?
YEAH - I GOT IT, HARRY
BUSINESS, BUSINESS.. ALL THE TIME, BUSINESS YOU WORK TOO MUCH, SOLLY YOU GONNA BE AN INVALID.
NAH, YOU GOT ME CONFUSED WITH SOME OTHER GUY RUTHIE. BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, LIFE'S A BITCH -
AN' THEN YOU DIE.
QUICK CLEAN CONFIDENTIA
PROFESSIONAL EXTERMIN
TEL: KIL 2029
BUT I'D NEVER CROSS YOU, MISTER McGEE - BELIEVE ME
NOW, YOUR BOYS IS BURNED UP BAD - BUT LISSEN, YOU CAN SEE WHERE THEY BEEN MARKED WITH THAT RED-BRAND.
SURE I'M SURE I'M LOOKIN' AT 'EM NOW, AIN'T I?
'COPS SAY IT WAS SOLDIER JACK PULLED THE TRIGGER...
YEAH, REGULAR BAD-PENNY, AIN'T HE? WANNA KNOW WHERE HE IS?

YEAH..?
"OKAY I'LL TELL HIM"
25
WAIT, JACK I'LL GO SEE
WHO S IT?
JANITOR, M'A'AM
WHAT D'YOU WANT?
GUY ON THE 'PHONE SAYS FOR SOLDIER TO MEET WITH SAUL AT BENNY'S - AND NOT TO TAKE HIS TIME, NEITHER

BEAR-SIGN IS A HIGHWAY THROUGH THE WOODS FOOTPRINTS BIG AS PLATES, BROKEN BRANCHES, BOULDERS OF DUNG, RANCID CARRION BREATH. HE'S NOT AFRAID. THEY'RE HIS WOODS.
BUT THE BEAR AIN'T STUPID - AND, IF HE SEES YOU, HE'LL LIKELY KILL YOU.
SO WALK SILENTLY, LIKE COYOTE, TO HUNT A BEAR. BORROW INVISIBILITY FROM THE WIND.
BURY YOUR FEAR AND TRACK HIM TO HIS LAIR.
BOYS
'RE THROUGH THE BACK, BENNY?
SURE IS. AN' HEY, SOLDIER, I TELL YOU HE AIN'T A HAPPY MAN.
GIMME A COFFEE WILLYA, PAL. PLENTY OF SUGAR
HOW COME HE'S SO MAD WITH JACK? MOVIN' CAR AN PIANOS AGAINST AN AUTOMATIC - HE OUGHTA GIVE THE GUY A BONUS.
WHO KNOWS. MAYBE THIS NUTTY BIRD-BRANDER'S SPOOKED HIM.

THIS'S THE ONE
DON'T SHOOT ME!
GONE. DAMN HIS EYES.' HE'S BEEN HERE, THOUGH. I CAN SMELL HIM.
ALL RIGHT, SISTER - WHEN'S THE UGLY BASTARD COMING BACK?
NO, SAUL. CHASE AIN'T HAVIN' HER - AN' I GOTTA SAY I'M PISSED AT YOU ASKIN' ME. WE GO BACK A LONG WAY, SAUL. I THOUGHT YOU'D'VE KNOWN BETTER.
YOU'RE BEING STUPID, JACK. SHE'S JUST SOME FRAIL. THERE'S A MILLION OF 'EM IN THE GHETTO
THEY SPRING UP FRESH EVERY DAY, JUST LIKE MUSHROOMS - AN' THEY ALL GOT THE SAME EQUIPMENT.
ANYHOW, IF THIS INEZ IS SO SPECIAL, JUST LOOK AT IT AS A LOAN - SHE'LL WEAR OLD HARRY OUT IN A COUPLA WEEKS
TELLYA WHAT, SAUL. YOU LEND ME YOUR AUTHIE AN' YOU GOT A DEAL.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH! SHE'S MY WIFE, YOU DIRTY BOGTROTTING IRISHER
LISSEN, I SPENT BLOOD AND SWEAT AND YEARS TO BUILD THIS BUSINESS - YOU THINK I'M GONNA RISK IT FOR SOME CHEAP BROAD OFFA THE STREET?!

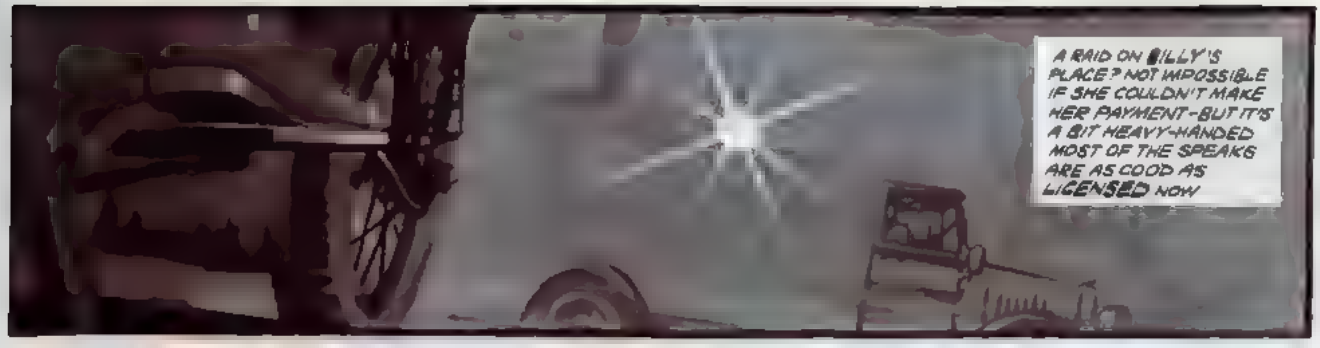
YOU WERE A GOOD TORPEDO, JACK. BRING HER IN BY NOON AND YOU CAN WALK.
HOLD YA BREATH WAITING, WHY DONCHA, SAUL?
I CAN SEE YOU'RE THE KIND OF BABE THAT LIKES A MAN WITH A BIG GUN
HEY, I BETCHA DON'T KNOW WHY THEY CALL McGEE "SMALL PAUL"? HAW HAWHAW HAW..
YUNY' KICK OFF WITH THE ROMANCIN' NOW. HE'S COMIN' BACK. KEEP THAT BROAD QUIET. THEY RECKON THIS GUY SHOOTS LIKE WILD BILL -
"AN' HE SURE LOOKS CRISLY"

'SALRIGHT, KID -IT'S ONLY ME.

NOW KEEP A HOLD ON YOURSELF, DARLIN' IT AIN'T YOURS.
EVERYTHING'LL BE OKAY. JUST GRAB A COAT — WE GOTTA HEAD FOR THE TALL GRASS.
WUH-WE'RE IN TROUBLE AIN'T WE JACK?
YEAH, SOME TALL SAUL DON'T LOVE ME NO MORE, KID. T'S OPEN SEASON ON SOLDIER JACK
BUT THOSE TWO WORKED FOR MCCOY
AMBUSH IN THE REAR!

GOOD CALL, PAL I OWE YOU ONE WHERE DID YOU FIGHT?
YEES WITH THE CANADIANS BUT YOU DON'T OWE ME NOTHING 'DON'T LIKE TO SEE CIVILIANS IN THE LINE OF FIRE
YEAH, WELL ...HERE'S A TEN-SPOT FOR BEING A GOOD INJUN
I'LL DOUBLE IT IF YOU GRAB SOME OF THE LADY'S RACE FROM HER ROOM BEFORE THE COPS GET HERE
I'LL LOOK FOR YOU 'ROUND EIGHT OUTSIDE THE DRUG STORE THREE BLOCKS EAST AN' DON'T CROSS ME, FELLA. I STILL GOT A COUPLE OF FRIENDS
AN' I STILL GOT YOU, INEZ. I STILL GOT YOU
C'MON, BABE WE AIN'T DEAD YET. I RENT A PLACE NO-ONE KNOWS WHERE WE CAN HOLE UP SNUG AS BUGS IN A RUG
WHERE HAVE YOU HIDDEN HER? CAN YOU REALLY NURSE THE SUBTLE AFFLICTION OF LOVE WITHIN A LIFE OF FEAR AND PAIN- OR IS IT JUST YOUR VANITY YOU PROTECT?
WILL YOU DIE FOR HER SALVATION - OR LEAVE HER AS A BROKEN BLOSSOM, DRIFTING THE INEVITABLE BLACK WATERS OF YOUR UNMARKED GRAVE?
THE CARRION-BIRDS ARE GATHERING, SOLDIER THE BUZZARDS WILL UNRAVEL YOUR GUTS, YOUR EYES WILL BE GRAPES FOR RAVENS
HAVE YOU GOT TIME TO SAVE HER? WHO WILL HELP?
CHRIST, SOLDIER... IT'S A SHIT BREAK - BUT IF I STAND UP FOR YOU, KOVIC'S GONNA CUT ME OFF AT THE KNEES
YOU OWE ME, RED!
HEY, JACK, I KNOW IT AND I'M SICK TO MY STOMACH BUT I GOT KIDS - Y'KNOW?
YOU'RE NUTS YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE WHOLE EAST -SIDE - AN' YOU AIN'T GONNA GET NO TICKER-TAPE PARADE FROM SMALL-PAUL'S BOYS, NEITHER YOU KILLED TOO MANY OF 'EM.
FACE IT, PAL- YOU'RE POISON. YOU BETTER FADE

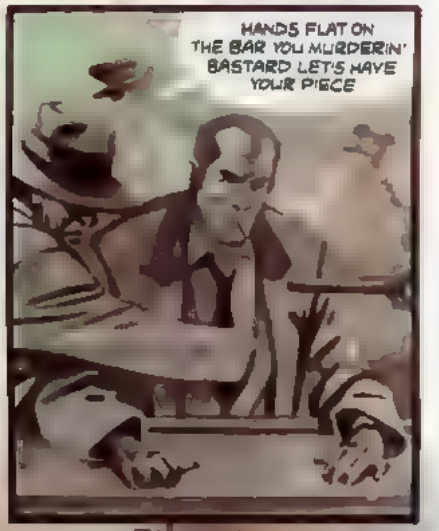
SCAREY, AIN'T IT, SOLDIER? WHEN THE SHELLS BURST IN THE MUD LIKE SLAMMING DOORS AND YOU CAN'T FIND A FOX-HOLE?
SO, WHADDYA RECKON, BILLY DARLIN' - AM I DEAD, OR DEAD?
I RECKON YOU'RE A GOOD JOE AN' I'LL BET YOUR INEZ LOVES YA GOOD - BUT THIS TOWN'S A SLAVE-MARKET AND CHASE'S GOT THE WHIP
ALL THE HEADS AND LEGS I'VE BUSTED FOR THAT TREACHEROUS SHIT KONIG - ALL THOSE CREEPS MESSIN' IN THEIR PANTS WHEN I TOOK 'EM FOR A RIDE ONE LITTLE FAVOUR, THAT'S ALL I WANTED.
"HE THINKS I'M STUPID, BILLY - A DUMB IRISHER WITH A SKULL FULL OF ROCKS WELL I GOT ENOUGH ON HIM AND CHASE TO FRY 'EM BOTH"
"I GOTTA THINK HOW TO USE IT THOUGH. I NEED A PLAN. THE TOP COPS'RE ALL IN CHASE'S POCKET - MAYBE THE FBI? NAH, HAVETA DO IT ON MY OHN"
HARLEY
ANYHOW, I AIN'T NO STOOL-PIGEON BUT NEITHER I AIN'T NO GODDAM PIMP! C'MON BILLY. YOU'RE A SMART GUY - COME UP WITH A LONG-SHOT, WILLYA.
ALRIGHT, WINKY. YOU GET THE PRIZE COLLECT A CENTURY FROM NUMBERS NED TOMORROW
NOW, YOU BETTA TAKE A POWDER OUTTA THERE I GOT A HUNCH THERE'S GONNA BE A RAID
SAY, ALGIE - YOU HAVIN' 'EM DELIVERED TO HOME NOW, OR WHAT? WE JUST PICKED UP THESE THREE FROM SEVEN FORTY-SEVEN BELL STREET AIN'T THAT WHERE YOU STAY?
THREE?
YEAH, TWO OF SMALL-PAUL'S TORPEDOES, COP'S SAY - AND A JOHN DOE FROM OUTTA TOWN WITH A HOOK, FOR CHRISSAKES. NO BRANDS, THOUGH.
DAMN THAT SOLDIER'S EYES.


A RAID ON BILLY'S PLACE? NOT IMPOSSIBLE IF SHE COULDN'T MAKE HER PAYMENT - BUT IT'S A BIT HEAVY-HANDED MOST OF THE SPEAKS ARE AS GOOD AS LICENSED NOW

IT COULD BE A COINCIDENCE THAT SOLDIER'S IN THERE BUT THOSE MENARE WEARING DEATH-FACES - AND I SMELL MURDER ON THE AIR

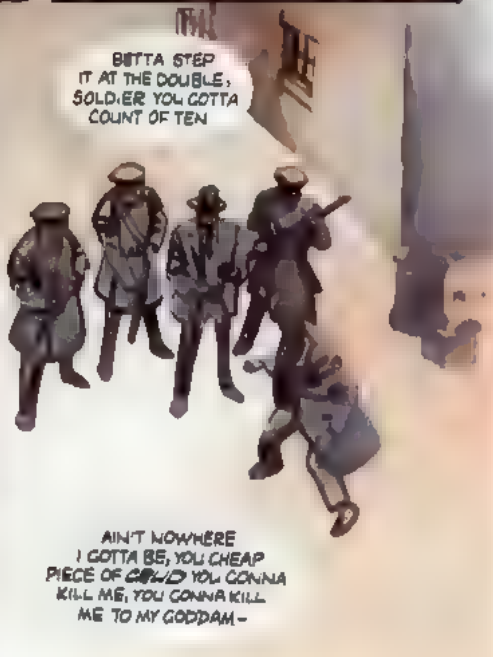
HEY, BILLY! IT'S THE COPS!

ALRIGHT, DON'T NOBODY MOVE!
LEAST OF ALL YOU, SOLDIER


HANDS FLAT ON THE BAR YOU MURDERIN' BASTARD LET'S HAVE YOUR PIECE

START WALKIN', HARD MAN IT AIN'T FAR, WE GOTTA NICE RIDE WAITIN' FOR YA IN THE STREET
MAX, YOU KEEP THESE CITIZENS IN HERE

AND IF MURDER'S THE GAME, I'VE GOT A DEATH-FACE TOO.


BETTA STEP IT AT THE DOUBLE, SOLDIER YOU GOTTA COUNT OF TEN
AIN'T NOWHERE I GOTTA BE, YOU CHEAP PIECE OF GOLD YOU GONNA KILL ME, YOU GONNA KILL ME TO MY GODDAM -

FACE!
OKAY, YOU FREAK BASTARD- WHO, IN THE NAME OF HELL AND ALL IT'S DAMNED DEVILS, ARE YOU?

SH.T' MORE OF THE BASTA
MISTAKE, SOLDIER YOU LOOKED AWAY I COULD'VE DROPPED YOU-
IF SHE DIDN'T NEED YOU ALIVE
ALL RIGHT, YOU CRAZY SPOOK I GET THE MESSAGE I'M GONE SEE?
BUT YOU SHOW UP AGAIN AND I'LL BLOW YA STUPID PUMPKIN-HEAD TO PULP STAY OUTTA MY LIFE - YA HEAR ME?
I HEAR YOU SOLDIER I HEAR A MAN ALONE IN THE FACE OF DEATH. I HEAR FEAR - AND FEAR BREEDS TREACHERY
JACK' I THOUGHT YOU WAS NEVER GONNA COME BABY, I'M SO SCARED. WHAT WE GONNA DO?
I GOTTA SAY IT. IT DON'T LOOK GOOD 'JUST YOU 'AN ME AGAINST THE REST BUT WE CAN WORK IT OUT TOGETHER. TRUST ME, DARL'N'
I DO, LOVER. BUT IT'S SUCH A MESS, AN' IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S ALL MY FAULT I ONLY WANTED TO SING IN A PROPER CLUB - NOW THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU
AIN'T YOUR FAULT, INEZ 'S' JUST THAT LOVE AND WAR DON'T MIX - AN' I GUESS I AIN'T NEVER GOT FREE OF THE WAR
POOR JACK LOVE YOU SO MUCH I COULD DO ANYTHING TO STOP THEM HURTING YOU I'D EVEN
SSHHH , I LOVE YOU TOO, KID
HEY, I BROUGHT YOUR CLOTHES 'YOU WANNA KNOW HOW MUCH - PUT ON THEM CHINESE PYJAMAS AN' TALK TO ME IN BED

INEZ ? YOU SLEEPING ?
NO
WELL Y'KNOW HOW YOU SAID YOU COULD DO ANY-THING ?
UH-HUH
D D YOU MEAN ANYTHING ?
YES
EXTRA, EXTRA ' MASKED MANIAC GOES BERSERK
GANG-SLAYER'S ARREST FOILED BY BIRD-BRAINED! 3 COPS DEAD!
UNDER THE FOG OF WAR, TRUTH ALWAYS DIES FIRST. CONFUSION SPREADS LIKE FEVER AS THE GUILTY MINGLE WITH THE INNOCENT AND DEATH BLINDLY JUDGES ALL IT STUMBLES ON
IN WAR, LOOK FOR ENEMIES AMONGST ALLIES AND ALLIES AMONGST ENEMIES
COFFEE - HEAVY ON THE SUGAR
HEY KID - WHOSE SIDE'RE YOU ON, ROUND-EYES OR REDSKINS ?
COWBOYS, WHOSE D'YA THINK ? THEY ALWAYS WIN.
THEY'RE WHITE, TOO. INJUNS IS SAVAGES.
IS THAT SO ?

YOU EVER SEE ONE UP REAL CLOSE?
BETTA HANG ONTO YOUR HAIR, IZZY-BOY. I RECKON YOU'RE TALKIN' AT THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS
MOHAWK
HUH? R'REAL?
YOU EVER WEAR WAR-PAINT? YOU EVER SCALP ANYONE?
SURE DOZENS
JUST LIKE PEELING ORANGES.
FIRST, YOU KILL YOUR ENEMY WITH A SPEAR, OR CLUB. THEN YOU CUT A RING ALL AROUND HIS HEAD
YOU GOT TO GET A GOOD GRIP WITH YOUR NAILS -'CAUSE IT'S SLICK AND TOUGH AS HELL
THEN ALL YOU GOT TO DO IS RIP IT RIGHT OFF!
AAH!
WHADDAYA SAY, SAUL? I RECKON YOUNG IZZY-BOY'S A REAL PALE-FACE NOW
HEY, BOSS YOU AIN'T GONNA BELIEVE THIS I GOT SOLDIER ON THE WIRE SAYING HE WANTS TO DEAL
GUS, AL, HERBIE - I WANT YOU IN ON THIS. YOU OTHER GUYS STAY AVAILABLE
IZZY- GO TELL YOUR MA THAT UNCLE GUS WANTS TO SEE HER PRETTY BUTT ON ONE OF ROSCO'S BAR-STOOLS BY TWO O'CLOCK .OK?

INEVITABLE HUMAN NATURE SOLDIER WAS ALWAYS GOING TO SELL HER OUT— EVEN IF HE DIDN'T KNOW IT
HIT HIM HARD HEEL ON THE COLLAR-BONE BUT DON'T BREAK HIS NECK. DEAD MEN DON'T TALK
CAACH ACH
LISTEN GOOD, GUS YOU GET ONE LUNGFUL OF AIR USE IT TO TALK ABOUT SOLDIER'S DEAL- WHEN, WHERE AND HOW' THEN MAYBE YOU GET ANOTHER
OK, OK FOUR A.M. THE BRIDGE
WE'RE THERE, WITH KONIG SOLDIER BRINGS THE GIRL AND WALKS WITH FIVE GRAND HE SAYS THE FRAIL'S WILL- ING. GUESS SHE MUST LOVE THE BUM- HUH?
OF COURSE SHE LOVES HIM. OF COURSE SHE'LL GIVE UP EVERYTHING FOR HIM. HIS CRIME IS LETTING HER. HE'S A FOOL. HE SHOULD'VE LOVED HER BACK
YOU'RE LOST, SOLDIER. DEATH'S SNAPPING AT YOUR HEELS

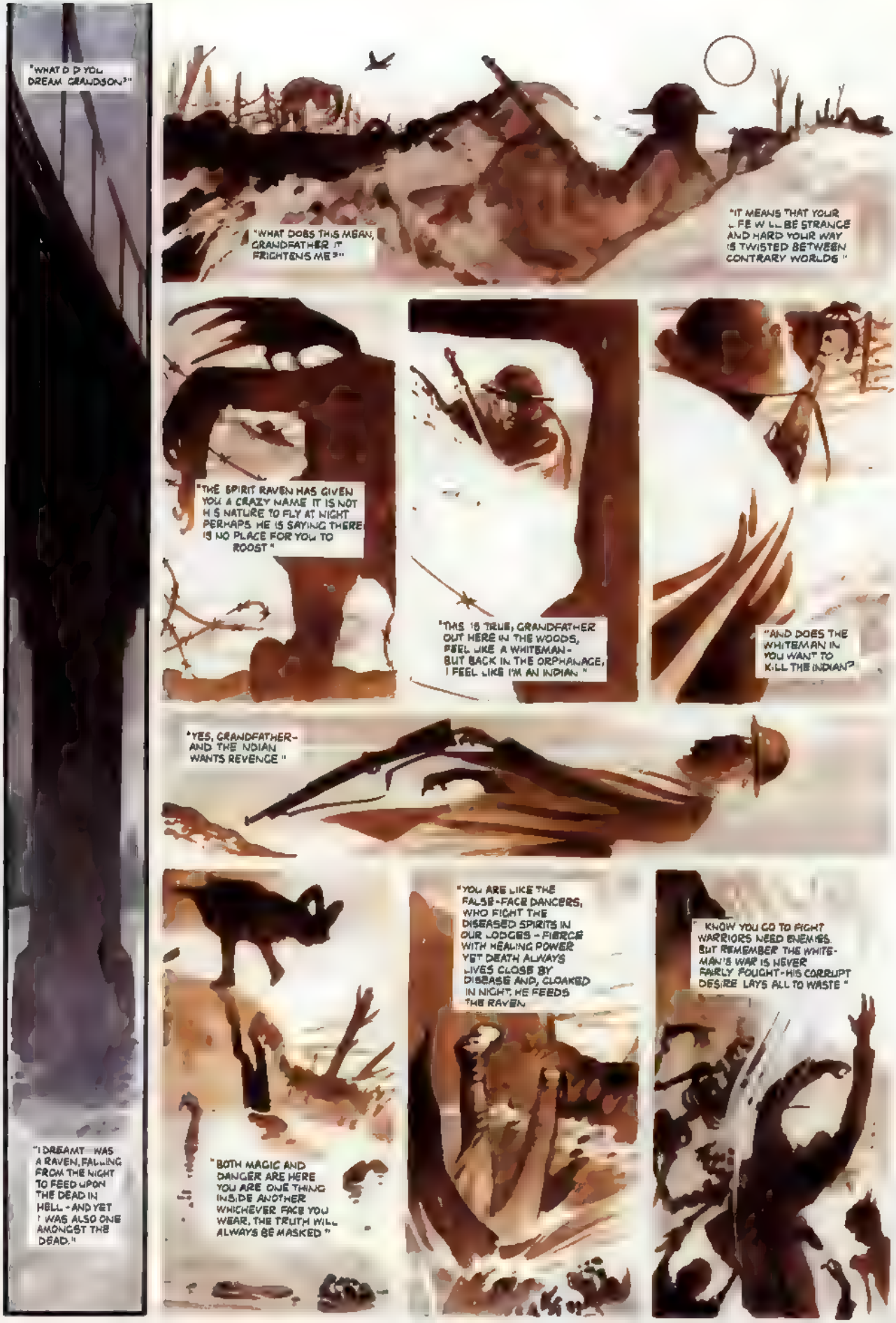
INNA GODDAM HOSPITAL, IS HE? FELL DOWN AND BROKE HIS GODDAM ARM, DID HE?
WELL WHEN THE HOP-HEAD BASTARD GETS OUT I'M GONNA BREAK HIS GODDAM LEGS.
YOU BETTA CATCH LOUIE BEFORE HE GETS TOO SAUCED TO SHOOT, AL - WE ONLY GOT A COUPLE OF HOURS TO GET SET-UP
TALK TO ME, JACK - I'M SCARED
THAT'S OK, KID - YOU GOTTA BE I AM, TOO
WE'RE NEARLY THERE 'YOU WANNA BACK OUT?
NO. I CAN DO IT - LONG AS I KNOW IT'S FOR US.
I KEEP THINKING I SHOULD MAKE A WILL, OR SOMETHING - SETTLE UP MY DEBTS
SAY, D'YOU EVER PAY OFF THAT CABBIE WHO K.O.'D CHASE AND TOOK ME HOME?
YEAH WELL. I TRIED
THAT WAS ANOTHER WEIRD THING - GUY THAT PICKED YOU UP HAD HIJACKED THE JALOPY AND LEFT THE CABBIE HOGTIED INNA PHONE-BOOTH.
BRRRR THAT MAKES ME SHIVER
Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES, WHEN I'M ALL ALONE, I FEEL LIKE THERE'S EYES WATCH-ING
YOU AN ME BOTH, DARLIN' - ONLY I THINK I KNOW WHO'S HAUNTING ME.
DAWN THE EXECUTIONER'S HOUR. THE TIME WHEN THOSE WHOSE TREACHEROUS FEAR OFFENDS US ARE QUIETENED BY THE FIRING - SQUAD
THE TARGET'S PINNED ABOVE YOUR HEART NOW, SOLDIER

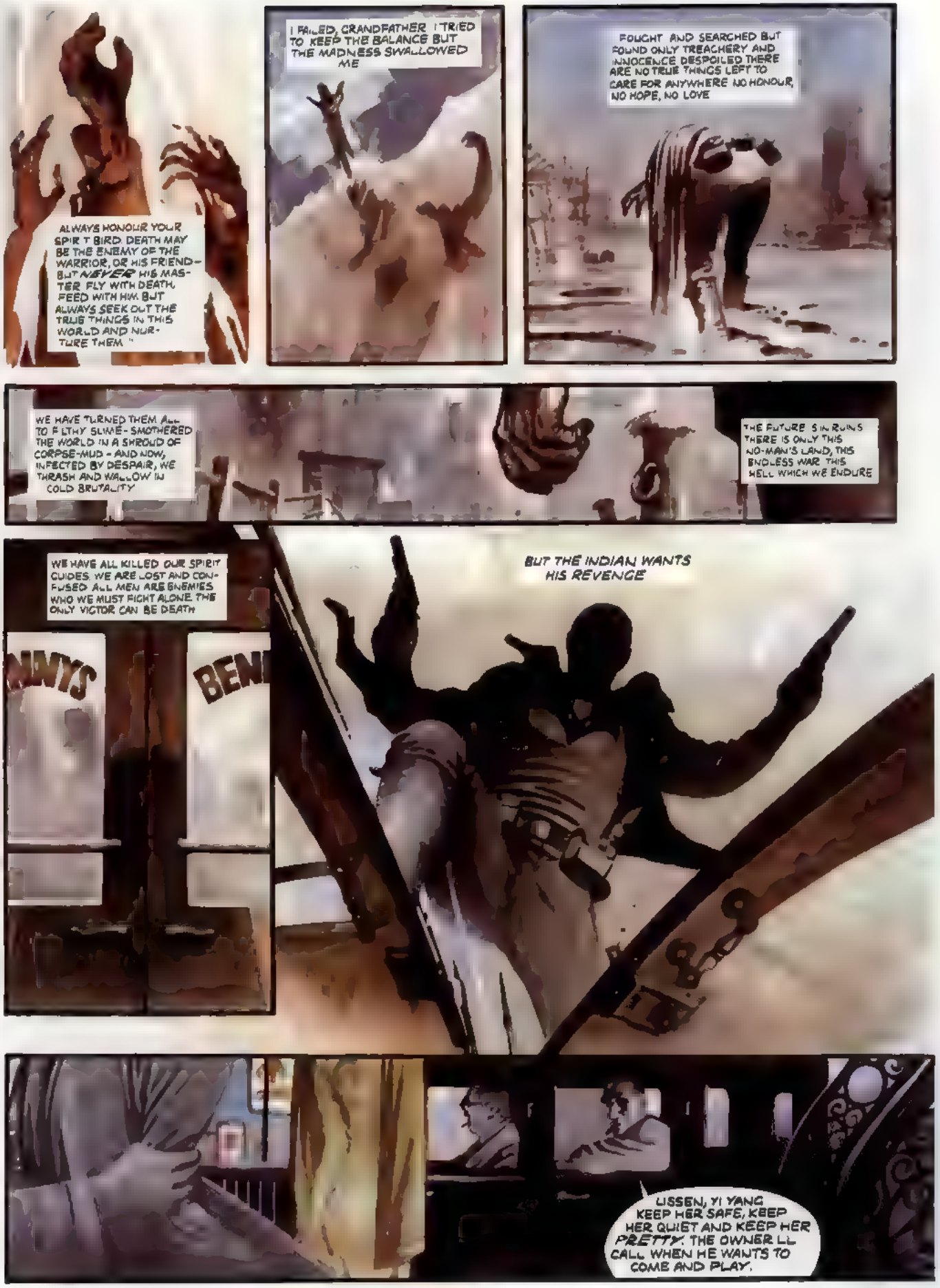
EVERYONE'S RANGED AND SET, MISTER KONIG. ONLY THING I AIN'T HAPPY WITH IS YOU TAKING THE MONEY OUT.
RELAX, AL. WE GOT ALL THE CARDS. HE CAN'T MOVE TILL WE BACK OFF WITH THE BROAD. THEN LOUIE AND THE OTHER RIFLES'VE GOT HIM COLD
EVEN IF HE DON'T PULL ANYTHING, HE'S GONNA BE DEAD WHEN HE COMES FOR THE DOUGH.
IT'S GETTING LIGHTER. WHAT TIME YOU GOT, BOSS?
BETTER SIGNAL THE BOYS TO BE READY. SOLDIER'S NEVER LATE
YEAH, DEPENDABLE GUY. STILL SEEMS LIKE HE'S GETTING A KINDA TOUGH BREAK, BOSS. I ALWAYS THOUGHT WIVES, KIDS AN' FRAILS WAS LIKE CIVILIANS, Y'KNOW?
MODERN TIMES, AL. MODERN TIMES.
AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS CIVILIANS NO MORE- JUST WEAKNESSES
DO UP YOUR COAT, INEZ. IT'S COLD AS JUSTICE OUT THERE NOW. REMEMBER- JUST DO LIKE I TOLD YOU.
YOU READY?
I GUESS. 'LOVE YOU, JACK.

OK, SOLDIER, LET'S DANCE.
THE BAG STAYS HERE BACK OFF 'SOON AS THE BROADS IN THE CAR, YOU CAN PICK UP THE SHECKELS
I FEEL LIKE A HEEL.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY, BABY
HEY! WHAT'S HE TRYNA PULL ?
SMOKE-FLARE, BOSS. KEEP DOWN- HE AIN'T ON HIS OWN

INEZ.
QUICK, ON THE BACK - COME ON!
YUH - YOU STAY AWAY FROM ME.
DON'T BE AFRAID. I'M YOUR FRIEND. I'M NOT GOING TO HURT
OFFA ME! YOU'RE GONNA MESS IT ALL UP.
HUH?
LEAVE GO OF HER, YOU GODDAM FREAK BASTARD!
DON'T JACK! STAY BACK!
WATCH OUT FOR THE PRAIL - BUT SHOOT THAT DOUBLE-CROSSING IRISHER'S HEAD RIGHT OFF!
"AN' YOU KEEP TRACK OF THE DOUGH IN THIS GODDAM SMOKE, AL."

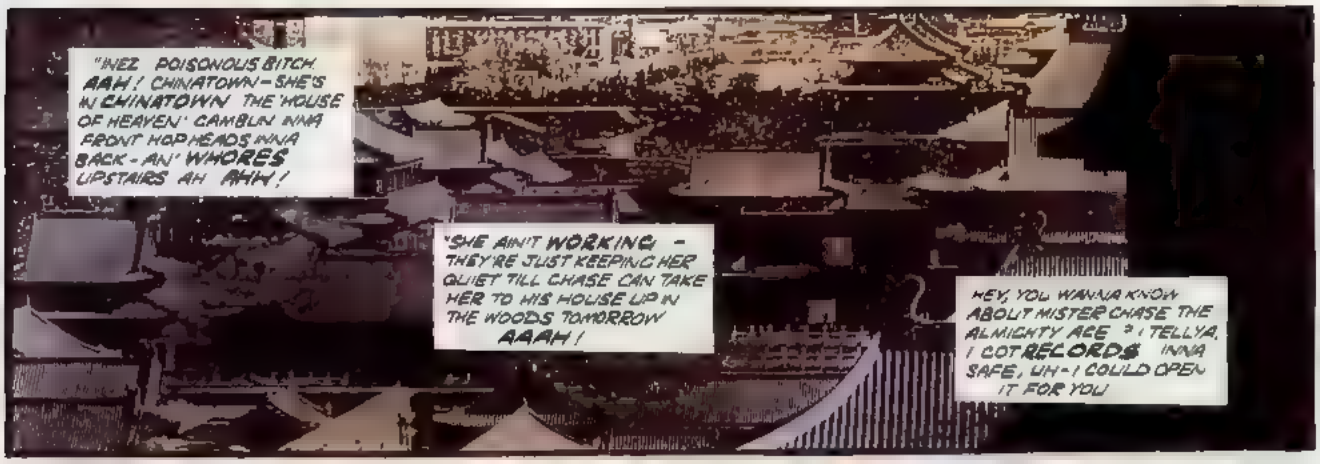
INEZ..!
JACK, NOOO..!
LET ME GO TO HIM
NO TIME. FORGET HIM. HE BETRAYED YOU
YOU'RE CRAZY. YOU'RE A MANIAC YOU SHOULD BE INNA GOODAM BUC-HOUSE YOU DON'T KNOW NOTHING. NOTHING.!
JACK LOVED ME. D'YA HEAR ME HE LOVED ME- AND YOU KILLED HIM
I HATE YOU, AN' I WANT YOU -
DEAD!
SHE'S EMPTY GET HER IN THE CAR.


"WHAT D D YOU DREAM GRANDSON?"
"I DREAMT WAS A RAVEN, FALLING FROM THE NIGHT TO FEED UPON THE DEAD IN HELL - AND YET I WAS ALSO ONE AMONGST THE DEAD."
"WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, GRANDFATHER IT FRIGHTENS ME?"
"IT MEANS THAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE STRANGE AND HARD YOUR WAY IS TWISTED BETWEEN CONTRARY WORLDS"
"THE SPIRIT RAVEN HAS GIVEN YOU A CRAZY NAME IT IS NOT HIS NATURE TO FLY AT NIGHT PERHAPS HE IS SAYING THERE IS NO PLACE FOR YOU TO ROOST"
"THIS IS TRUE, GRANDFATHER OUT HERE IN THE WOODS, I FEEL LIKE A WHITEMAN - BUT BACK IN THE ORPHANAGE, I FEEL LIKE I'M AN INDIAN"
"AND DOES THE WHITEMAN IN YOU WANT TO KILL THE INDIAN?"
"YES, GRANDFATHER - AND THE INDIAN WANTS REVENGE"
"BOTH MAGIC AND DANGER ARE HERE YOU ARE ONE THING INSIDE ANOTHER WHICHEVER FACE YOU WEAR, THE TRUTH WILL ALWAYS BE MASKED"
"YOU ARE LIKE THE FALSE-FACE DANCERS, WHO FIGHT THE DISEASED SPIRITS IN OUR LODGES - FIERCE WITH HEALING POWER YET DEATH ALWAYS LIVES CLOSE BY DISEASE AND, CLOAKED IN NIGHT, HE FEEDS THE RAVEN"
"I KNOW YOU GO TO FIGHT WARRIORS NEED ENEMIES BUT REMEMBER THE WHITE-MAN'S WAR IS NEVER FAIRLY FOUGHT - HIS CORRUPT DESIRE LAYS ALL TO WASTE"


ALWAYS HONOUR YOUR SPIR T BIRD. DEATH MAY BE THE ENEMY OF THE WARRIOR, OR HIS FRIEND– BUT NEVER HIS MASTER. FLY WITH DEATH, FEED WITH HIM. BUT ALWAYS SEEK OUT THE TRUE THINGS IN THIS WORLD AND NURTURE THEM."
I FAILED, GRANDFATHER. I TRIED TO KEEP THE BALANCE BUT THE MADNESS SWALLOWED ME
FOUGHT AND SEARCHED BUT FOUND ONLY TREACHERY AND INNOCENCE DESPOILED. THERE ARE NO TRUE THINGS LEFT TO CARE FOR. ANYWHERE. NO HONOUR, NO HOPE, NO LOVE
WE HAVE TURNED THEM ALL TO F LTHY SLIME – SMOTHERED THE WORLD IN A SHROUD OF CORPSE-MUD – AND NOW, INFECTED BY DESPAIR, WE THRASH AND WALLOW IN COLD BRUTALITY
THE FUTURE S IN RUINS. THERE IS ONLY THIS NO-MAN'S LAND, THIS ENDLESS WAR. THIS HELL WHICH WE ENDURE
WE HAVE ALL KILLED OUR SPIRIT GUIDES. WE ARE LOST AND CONFUSED. ALL MEN ARE ENEMIES WHO WE MUST FIGHT ALONE. THE ONLY VICTOR CAN BE DEATH
BUT THE INDIAN WANTS HIS REVENGE
LISSEN, YI YANG. KEEP HER SAFE, KEEP HER QUIET AND KEEP HER PRETTY. THE OWNER LL CALL WHEN HE WANTS TO COME AND PLAY.

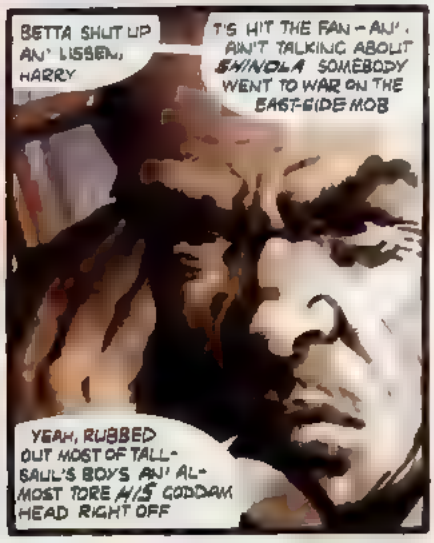
BETTA GET READY FOR A BUSY DAY, ALGIE.
HOW'S THAT?
ONE OF THEM GUNSELS WE HAULED OUTTA YOUR BUILDIN' WAS SMALL PAUL'S COUSIN, VINNY.
REMEMBER WHAT HE DID TO THAT GREEK WHO BUSTED HIS UNCLE ALBERT'S ARM...? 'PUT ME RIGHT OFF MY FEED FOR WEEKS.
HELL, I AIN'T NO KINDA NERVOUS JOE - BUT I ALWAYS SWEAT IN CHINA-TOWN
YOU WANNA TRY A NIGHT AT YI YANG'S PLACE - THEN YOU'LL KNOW ABOUT SWEAT. JEEZ. THEM GIRLS.
YOU'RE A SICK MAN PETE. YOU SHOULD TAKE STEAM BATHS, EAT GOOD BREAKFASTS - WHYD'YA THINK I BOUGHT YOU GUYS YOUR OWN PRIVATE DINER?
YOU DON'T WATCH OUT, YOU'RE GONNA WIND UP WITH DISEASES, ALL WASHED UP LIKE THAT HOP-HEAD, CUS
YEAH YEAH. I SHOULD LIVE SO-
LONG

WHAT'RE Y'DOING, KONIG - WAVING, OR DROWNING?
C'MON, MESHUGGENER, SHOOT WHY DONCHA? NOT IN MY FACE, THOUGH, HUH? RUTHIE, SHE COULDN' TAKE IT
WELL WHADDYA KNOW? THE CLOWN'S ALL OUTTA CUSTARD PIES
GIVE IT TO HIM NOW, SOLDIER. YOU GOT HIM COLD.
DO IT, SOLDIER QUIT FOOLIN' AROUND CHOP THE BASTARD DOWN
EVERYONE ELSE IS DEAD, BUDDY'S JUST YOU AN' ME NOW - 'SAME AS IT ALWAYS WAS
PLEASE, JACK, NEED YOU
JACK ?
YOU'RE CLUTCHING AT STRAWS, OLD MAN. JACK'S DEAD - REMEMBER? YOUR LIFE'S IN BLOODY RUINS ALL AROUND YOU
YOU'RE ALONE YOU'RE GOING TO DIE - AND DYING'S ALWAYS HARD.
BUT EASIER IF YOU'VE CONFESSED YOUR GUILT AND BEEN SHRIVEN OF YOUR SIN
TELL ABOUT INEZ, THEN TELL ABOUT CHASE
LIE JUST ONCE AND I'LL RIP THIS PUTTY-MASK OF FALSEHOOD FROM YOUR FACE AND READ THE TRUTH WHERE IT'S ETCHED ON YOUR SKULL!


"HEZ POISONOUS BITCH AAH! CHINATOWN – SHE'S IN CHINATOWN THE 'HOUSE OF HEAVEN' CAMBLIN INNA FRONT HOP HEADS INNA BACK – AN' WHORES UPSTAIRS AH AHH!
"SHE AIN'T WORKING – THEY'RE JUST KEEPING HER QUIET TILL CHASE CAN TAKE HER TO HIS HOUSE UP IN THE WOODS TOMORROW AAAH!
HEY, YOU WANNA KNOW ABOUT MISTER CHASE THE ALMIGHTY ACE? I TELLYA, I GOT RECORDS INNA SAFE, UH – I COULD OPEN IT FOR YOU

EXCUSE ME, MISTER CHASE IT'S THE POLICE COMMISSIONER, SIR
OK, OK – GET ME MORE COFFEE, BOY – AND MAKE IT HOT THIS TIME

HEY, O'NEIL – HOW'RE THEY HANGIN'?

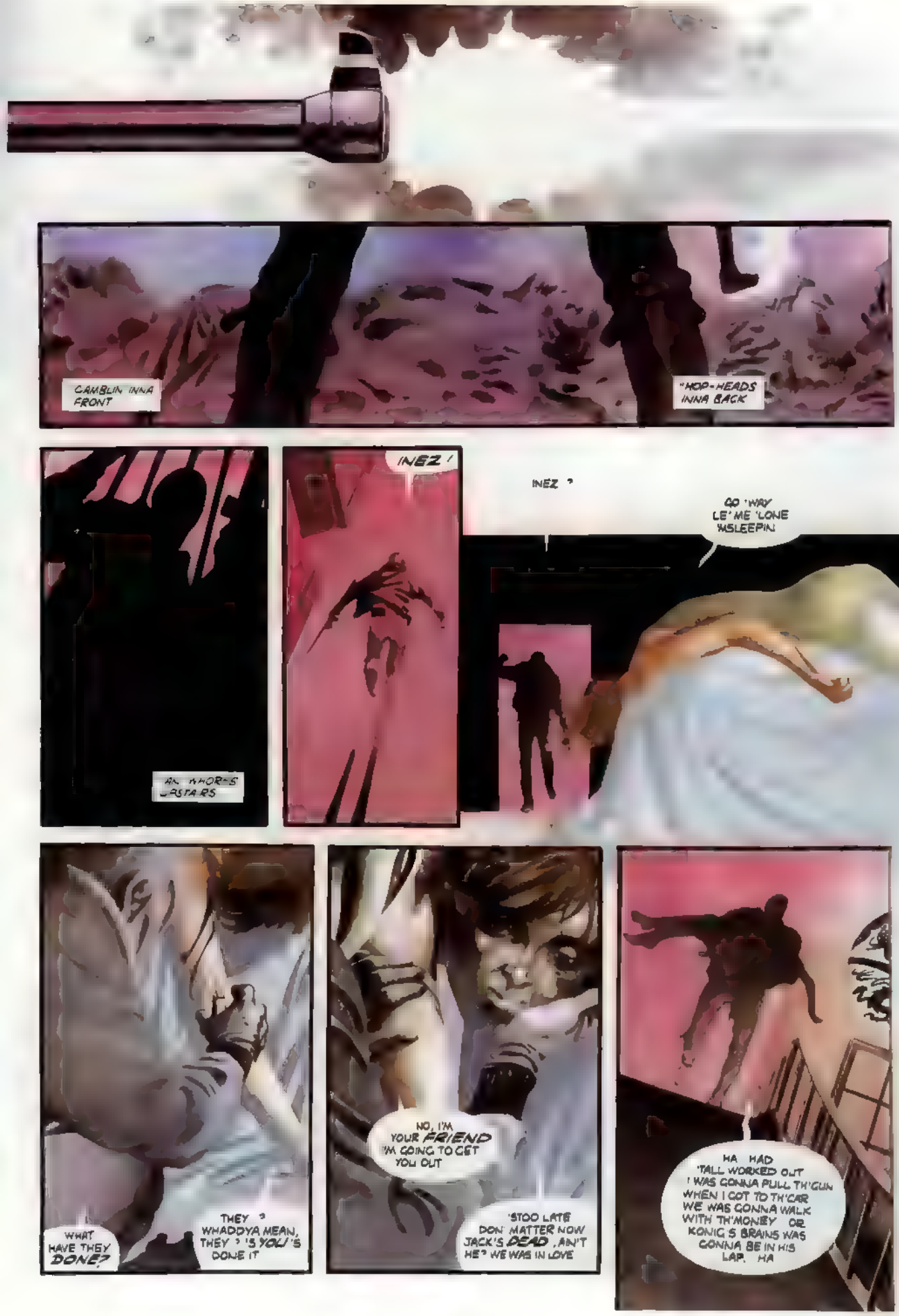

BETTA SHUT UP AN' LISSEN, HARRY
T'S HIT THE FAN – AN' AIN'T TALKING ABOUT SHINOLA SOMEBODY WENT TO WAR ON THE EAST-SIDE MOB
YEAH, RUBBED OUT MOST OF TALL-SAUL'S BOYS AN' ALMOST TORE HIS GODDAM HEAD RIGHT OFF

AN' THAT AIN'T THE WORST. SEEMS HIS SAFE WAS CRACKED AN' A WHOLE MESS OF DOCUMENTS WITH YOUR NAME ON 'EM WAS SCATTERED AROUND LIKE CONFETTI
THE PAPERS'RE ON TO IT, HARRY – AN' THE FEDS. BETTA TALK TO YOUR LAWYER SOMEBODY OUT THERE'S AFTER YOUR SCALP

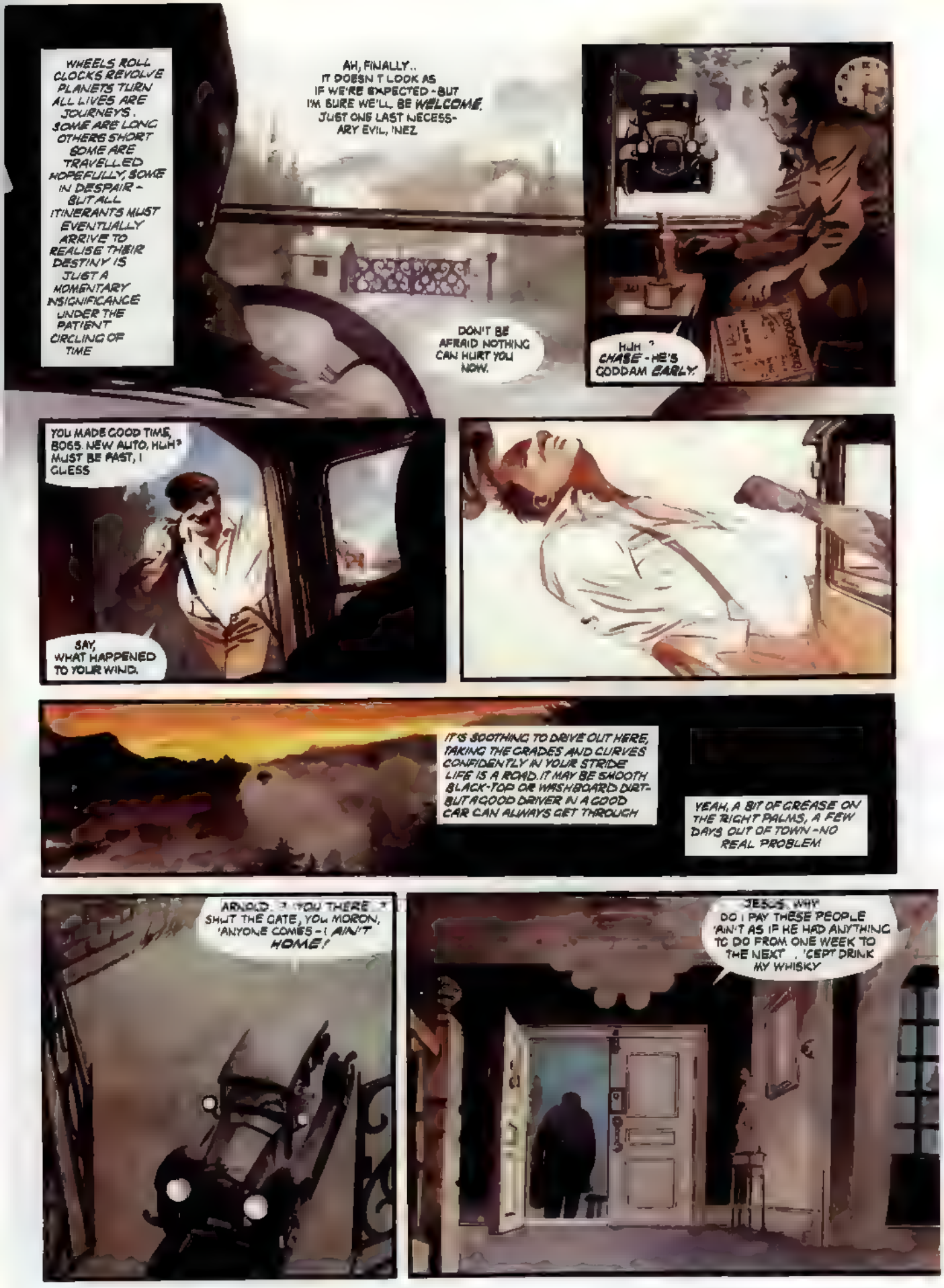
HELLO, HELLO, FRONT? YEAH, HAROLD CHASE – CHANGE OF PLAN, TELL THE BELL-CAPTAIN TO GET MY BAGS PACKED, I'LL BE LEAVING UP STATE AT NOON.
AN' TELL THE OPERATOR TO GET ME HOP 7777, PRONTO.

YES, YES, MISTER CHASE, I APPRECIATE YOUR DIFFICULTY HOWEVER, IT IS FOOLISH TO SQUANDER SUCH A VALUABLE RESOURCE, MAY I MAKE AN OFFER? WE WILL ONLY WORK HER ON THE WEST COAST – SILENCE WILL BE GUARANTEED

VERY WELL, INSULTS ARE UNNECESSARY
WE WILL DISPOSE OF YOUR PROPERTY IN COMPLIANCE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTION - ALTHOUGH THERE WILL, OF COURSE, BE AN ADDITIONAL FEE
OK, OK- ONLY YOU BETTA NOT CROSS ME UP, LADY-OR YOUR CHINESE ASS IS GONNA BE DEPORTED QUICKER'N YOU CAN SAY CHOP SUEY


CAMBLIN INNA FRONT
"HOP-HEADS INNA BACK
AN WHORES UPSTAIRS
INEZ !
INEZ ?
GO 'WAY LE' ME 'LONE 'WSLEEPIN
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE?
THEY ? WHADDYA MEAN, THEY ? 'S YOU 'S DONE IT
NO, I'M YOUR FRIEND 'M GOING TO GET YOU OUT
'STOO LATE DON' MATTER NOW JACK'S DEAD, AIN'T HE? WE WAS IN LOVE
HA HAD 'TALL WORKED OUT ! WAS GONNA PULL TH'GUN WHEN I GOT TO TH'CAR WE WAS GONNA WALK WITH TH'MONEY OR KONIG'S BRAINS WAS GONNA BE IN HIS LAP. HA

DON' MATTER NOW 'SNICE REALLY DYING 'SLIKE DROWNING IN FLUFFY, WHITE
DON'T DON'T TALK ANYMORE
SLEEP NOW I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM HERE
YOU SHOULD TRY T' SOMETIMES - ASSHOLE
WHEN YOU WAKE UP EVERY-THING LL BE DIFF-ERENT NO MORE OF THIS DISEASED HELL OF MUD AND BLOOD AND TRENCHES
NO MORE KILLERS AND VICTIMS- NO MORE FILTHY CARRION BIRDS
NO MORE WAR - JUST AN ENDLESS WILDERNESS OF PEACE TALL TREES, WIDE SKY AND THE COOSE WIND BLOWING FREE BETWEEN THEM
"IF I'D TAKEN YOU SOONER, WE COULD'VE SHARED A SUMMER-DREAM - SWEET TOGETHE'R IN THE COTTON-
"BUT YOU SPOKE TRUE WORDS. IT'S TOO LATE NOW
I AM A HEALER AND A HEALER MUST DWELL AMONGST THE SICK
AND IF HE CANNOT SAVE THEM WITH EITHER SKILL OR LOVE-
"THEN HE MUST EASE THEM GENTLY INTO DEATH."

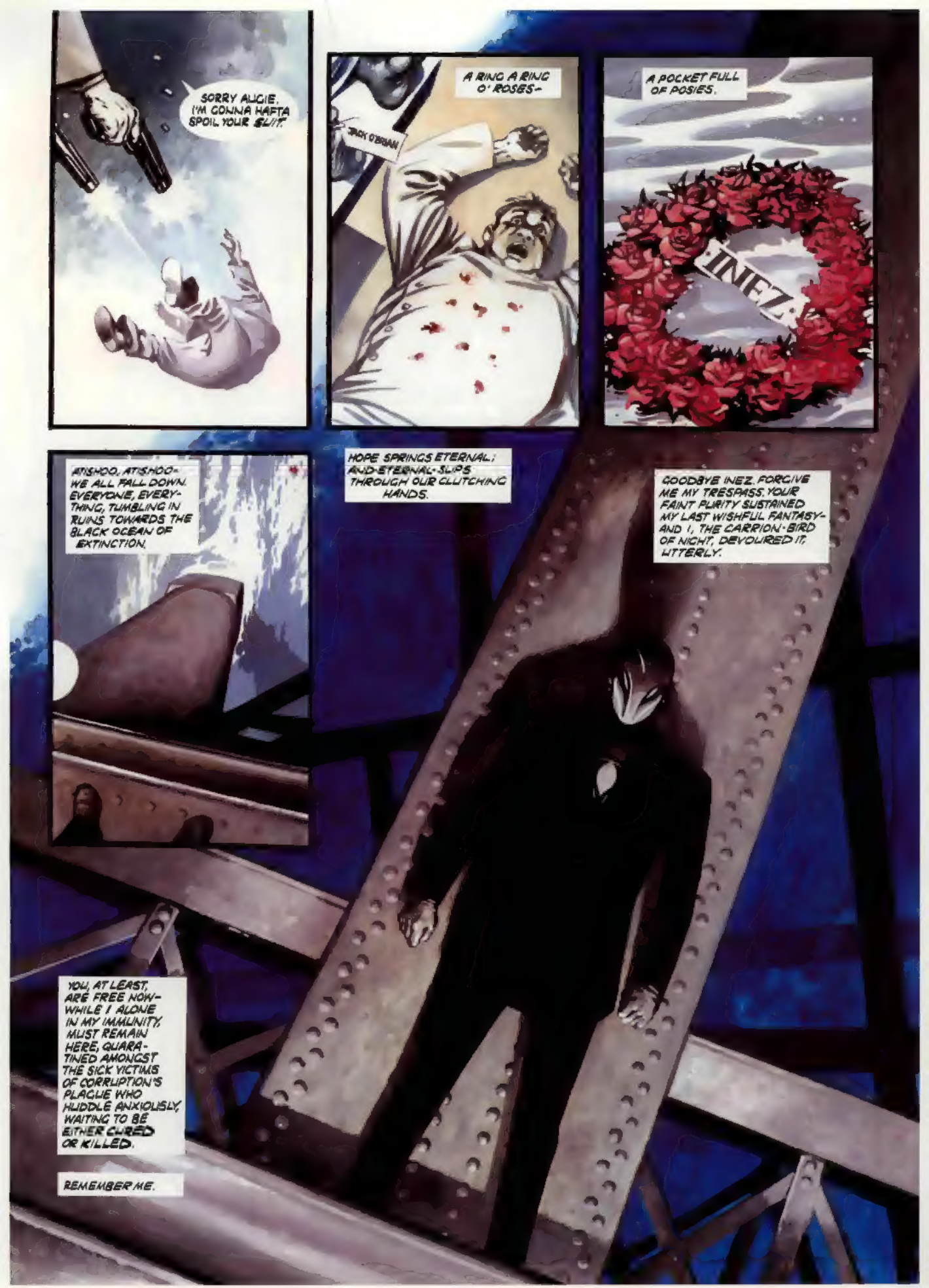

WHEELS ROLL CLOCKS REVOLVE PLANETS TURN ALL LIVES ARE JOURNEYS. SOME ARE LONG OTHERS SHORT SOME ARE TRAVELLED HOPEFULLY, SOME IN DESPAIR - BUT ALL ITINERANTS MUST EVENTUALLY ARRIVE TO REALISE THEIR DESTINY IS JUST A MOMENTARY INSIGNIFICANCE UNDER THE PATIENT CIRCLING OF TIME
AH, FINALLY.. IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF WE'RE EXPECTED - BUT I'M SURE WE'LL BE WELCOME. JUST ONE LAST NECESSARY EVIL, INEZ
DON'T BE AFRAID NOTHING CAN HURT YOU NOW.
HUH ? CHASE - HE'S GODDAM EARLY.
YOU MADE GOOD TIME, BOSS. NEW AUTO, HUH? MUST BE FAST, I GUESS
SAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR WIND.
IT'S SOOTHING TO DRIVE OUT HERE, TAKING THE GRADES AND CURVES CONFIDENTLY IN YOUR STRIDE LIFE IS A ROAD. IT MAY BE SMOOTH BLACK-TOP OR WASHBOARD DIRT- BUT A GOOD DRIVER IN A GOOD CAR CAN ALWAYS GET THROUGH
YEAH, A BIT OF GREASE ON THE RIGHT PALMS, A FEW DAYS OUT OF TOWN - NO REAL PROBLEM
ARNOLD..? YOU THERE..? SHUT THE GATE, YOU MORON, 'ANYONE COMES - I AIN'T HOME!
JESUS, WHY DO I PAY THESE PEOPLE 'AIN'T AS IF HE HAD ANYTHING TO DO FROM ONE WEEK TO THE NEXT.. 'CEPT DRINK MY WHISKY

AND WHERE'RE THE DOGS?
LEE..? GRANT..?
"HEY, HEY MAYBE THE MUTTS'VE EATEN THE WORTHLESS SLOB."
DOGS. DOG-TIRED IS WHAT I AM. 'NEED TO SLEEP - THINK THINGS OUT IN THE MORNING
DAMN, NO LIGHT!
STILL, A BOTTLE'S ALL YOU'LL BE TAKING TO BED TONIGHT THOUGH, HARRY BOY. PITY SOME COMPANY'D STOP YOU TALKING TO YOURSELF
ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN.
IS SHE? IS SHE.?
SHE'S RESTING, SHE GOT TIRED WAITING FOR YOU AND TOOK A SEDATIVE
SHE WENT THROUGH A LOT TO GET HERE - TO PLEASE YOU.

IT MUST BE EXCITING TO HAVE SO MUCH POWER, MISTER CHASE -
STIMULATING TO HAVE ALL THOSE LITTLE PEOPLE DESPERATE TO PANDER TO YOUR EVERY IDLE
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT FOR THE SHEER EXHILARATION.
PERHAPS YOU'D FIND A SEDATIVE USEFUL, TOO .?
WHO ARE YOU? TAKE OFF THAT MASK. YOU'RE INSANE
DROP YOUR PANTS AND BEND OVER PLEASE
NO! YOU KILLED THIS BROAD - BUT YUH - YOU AIN T GONNA KILL ME SO EASY
YOU'RE WRONG TWICE, MISTER CHASE. / FAILED TO PROTECT HER BUT YOU MURDERED INEZ, AND I AM GOING TO KILL YOU -
EASILY

HEY, FELLA! HAROLD CHASE'S PLACE - WHERE'S IT AT?
YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT
UUUNNH UH! JUH-JESUS, A DREAM WHAT A GHASTLY, GODDAM NIGHTMARE
'N THAT BANGING'S KILLING MY HEAD ARNOLD WILLYA GET THAT GODDAM DOOR! I GOTTA SLEEP SOME MORE
AAAAAH!
WHADDYA KNOW, IT'S OPEN HEY, YOU HEAR A SCREAM..?
C'MON UPSTAIRS
TEN GETS YOU FIFTY THE BUTLER DID IT.
WISEGUY
NUH-NUH-NUH NOOO.
'MORNING, CONGRESSMAN ANY COMMENT FOR THE SENTINEL?
WHO'S YOUR FRIEND, ACE?
JESUS H. CHRIST, GUYS - THE BROAD'S DEAD!
OH BOY, WHADDA STORY
IT'S NOT LIKE IT SEEMS I DIDN'T SHE WAS DEAD ALREADY THUH-THIS MANIAC IN A MASK. HE.. HE

OH MY DEAR GOD
YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE ME LOOK, HE SHOT ME UP WITH SOME KINDA DOPE
SMILE FOR THE CITIZENS, HARROLD
THE SENTINEL
THREE CENTS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1929
FIFTH YEAR
QUESTION: Dope, Prostitution, Gang-war, White-slaving, Blackmail, Graft, Murder -
ANSWER: WHAT DO ALL THESE HAVE IN COMMON?
Congressman Harold Chase.
ACE HEY, I GEDDIT. THAT'S PRETTY NEAT ACE, KING, QUEEN, JACK
WE'RE JUST A RED TEN SHORT OF A PAT HAND
SAY, LOOSEN UP, YA STIFFS, THE PRESS IS HERE YA GONNA HAVE YOUR PICTURES TOOK
OK BOYS, C'MON IN ONE AT A TIME - AN' IT'S TEN BUCKS A POP, RIGHT?
UH, SMALL PAUL WHADDA YOU WANT?
PEACE AND QUIET, AUGIE
SEE, MY AUNT LISA'S BEEN BAWLIN' FOR TWO DAYS NOW
SAYS SHE'S GOTTA HAVE REVENGE FOR HER ELDEST SON, VINCENT, BEFORE SHE CAN REST


SORRY ALICIE. I'M GONNA HAFTA SPOIL YOUR SLIP.
A RING A RING O' ROSES-
JACK O'BRIAN
A POCKET FULL OF POSIES.
INEZ
ATISHOO, ATISHOO- WE ALL FALL DOWN. EVERYONE, EVERY-THING, TUMBLING IN RUINS TOWARDS THE BLACK OCEAN OF EXTINCTION.
HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL; AND ETERNAL SLIPS THROUGH OUR CLUTCHING HANDS.
GOODBYE INEZ. FORGIVE ME MY TRESPASS. YOUR FAINT PURITY SUSTAINED MY LAST WISHFUL FANTASY- AND I, THE CARRION-BIRD OF NIGHT, DEVOURED IT, UTTERLY.
YOU, AT LEAST, ARE FREE NOW- WHILE I ALONE IN MY IMMUNITY, MUST REMAIN HERE, QUARA-TINED AMONGST THE SICK VICTIMS OF CORRUPTION'S PLAGUE WHO HUDDLE ANXIOUSLY, WAITING TO BE EITHER CURED OR KILLED.
REMEMBER ME.

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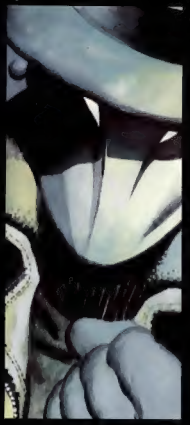

ISBN 1-85400-288-0

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£7.95 $14.95